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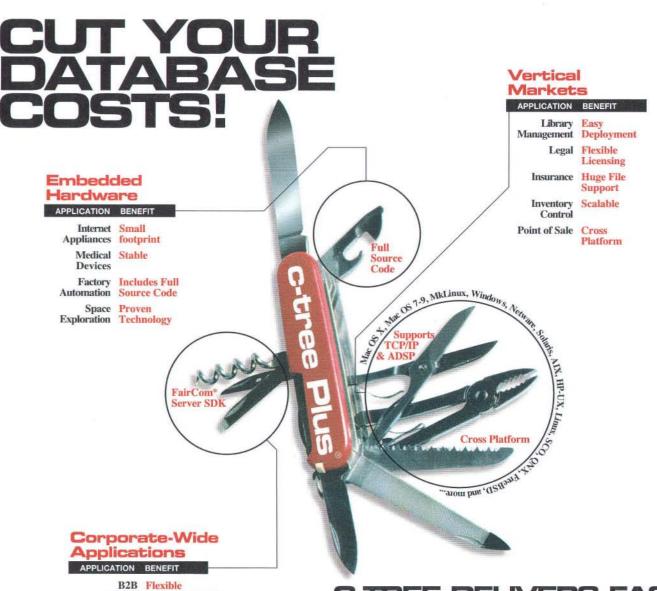




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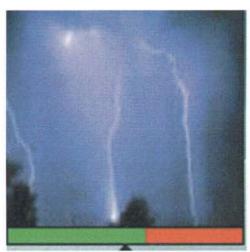
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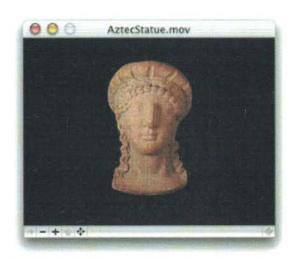
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Some Basic Commands

Learn these first; the others can wait!

Before we look at any specific commands, we need to look at some fundamental differences between BSD terminal sessions and the ordinary Mac OS X (OSX) experience. Each interface has its advantages and disadvantages; by understanding these, you'll be able to use both interfaces more effectively!

- Applications vs. Commands OSX applications tend to be highly interactive, providing customized environments for accomplishing particular tasks. BSD commands, in contrast, are generally run in "batch mode". The user issues the command, giving all of the needed information, waits for the result, and goes on.
- Documents vs. Files OSX documents are generally encoded in an application-specific data format. Consequently, it is only by extra effort that other applications can make use of them. BSD files are expected to be useful to a wide range of commands. As a result, they are often formatted as ASCII text files, using white space (blanks, spaces, and newlines) to delineate internal data elements.
- Subjects vs. Verbs In OSX, the user double-clicks on the icon for a document (subject) and the appropriate application (verb) starts up. Alternatively, s/he drags the document icon (subject) over to the application icon (verb). In BSD, the user types in the name of a command (verb), followed by assorted file names (subjects) and flags (adverbs).
- Mice vs. Keyboards OSX employs a graphical user interface (GUI), using the mouse (trackball, ...) for

nearly every action. Keyboard "shortcuts" are provided in some cases, but they are never required. In BSD, the situation is exactly reversed. The keyboard is used for everything; mouse "shortcuts" are used only occasionally.

- Windows vs. Sessions OSX applications often put up multiple windows; actions taken in one window are expected to have ramifications in all of the other windows. Each BSD terminal session, in contrast, is expected to be independent of all of the other sessions.
- Aqua vs. The Shell Aqua (including the Dock and the Finder) allows the user to navigate through the file system, manipulate documents and folders, and start up commands. The BSD "shell" (assisted by some common commands) provides equivalent capabilities, plus others (e.g., scripting, session logging). Of course, the user interfaces vary substantially!

NAVIGATION COMMANDS

As noted above, BSD command lines start with a verb, followed by some number of subjects and adverbs. Last month, we used the "man" command to view manual pages; let's use it again, trying out some variations.

```
[localhost:~] rdm% man 2 sync
[localhost:~] rdm% man 8 sync
[localhost:~] rdm% man sync
```

The sync(2) manual page describes a system call; sync(8), in contrast, is a system maintenance command. By specifying the section number, we can tell man which part of the manual to search. In most cases, there is no conflict, so the section number can be left off.

Rich Morin has been using computers since 1970, Unix since 1986, and Mac-based Unix since 1986 (when he helped Apple create A/UX 1.0). When he isn't writing this column, Rich runs Prime Time Freeware (www.ptf.com), a publisher of books and CD-ROMs for the Free and Open Source software community. Feel free to write to Rich at rdm@ptf.com.

None of man's "arguments" are actually file names. Instead, they are hints that allow man to search assorted directories. The actual list of directories that man examines is specified by MANPATH, a BSD "environment variable". Environment variables and control files perform many of the functions of OSX preferences:

[localhost:~] rdm% echo \$MANPATH /Users/rdm/man:/usr/local/share/man:/usr/share/man

This tells us that man looks first under /Users/rdm/man (the user's personal man pages), /usr/local/share/man (this machine's "local" man pages), and /usr/share/man (OSX man pages). Let's wander over to the latter directory and take a look:

[localhost:~] rdm% cd /usr/share/man [localhost:/usr/share/man] rdm% 1s -F man1/ man3/ man5/ man7/ whatis.db man2/ man4/ man6/ man8/

The cd(1) command sets /usr/share/man as the "current directory" for this terminal session. This can save a *lot* of typing! For convenience, the shell puts the name of the current directory in the command line's "prompt string".

The ls(1) command provides a directory listing, appending slashes to directory names (as directed by the -F option). So far, the Finder seems a lot more convenient, but hang on a bit! Let's find out which directories have "sync" man pages:

[localhost:/usr/share/man] rdm% 1s */sync* man2/sync.2 man8/sync.8

The asterisk "wild cards" tell the shell to look through every subdirectory, looking for files whose names begin with "sync". Hmm; looks like the shell has some advantages when lots of items are involved. How many pages might that be, anyway?

[localhost:/usr/share/man] rdm% ls */* | wc -1

This command "pipeline" ran two commands, directing the "standard output" of one into the "standard input" of the other. The first command listed every file in every subdirectory; the second counted the number of lines in the first command's output. The result (2853) was something which neither base command was "designed" to produce.

This pipeline is actually a minuscule instance of a "shell script". BSD users frequently write scripts to automate repetitive tasks. Next month, we'll look at some more commands and some fancier ways of writing shell scripts.



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By Paul Ammann

Shell Scripts, Perl and Python

In the early days computers where used to run programs, and nothing more. You punched your program on cards, delivered the pack to the computer department. The staff there loaded the program into the computer, executed it and retrieved the result on paper. This was in turn returned to you and you had to sit down and figure out why you got the result you got.

Modern computers are a little more complex than that. You have a complete environment where you can execute your programs and even have such astonishing things as interactive programs. It is no longer enough to be able to load your program and just print the result. You also need support to reformat the results, process them in other manners (maybe printing a nice diagram) and store them in a database. It would of course be possible to write specially designed programs that formatted the output of your programs according to your wishes, but the number of specialized programs would quickly increase, leaving your computer loaded with "might come in handy" programs.

A better approach would be to have a small set of processing programs with a program made to "glue the parts together." On a UNIX system, such a program is called the *shell*. The shell is used to issue commands, start processes, control jobs, redirect input and output, and other mundane things that you do on a modern computer. Not only that, the shell is a pretty complete programming language.

Now that Apple has switch to UNIX-based operating system, there are several new languages users can utilize: the Shell script, Perl, and Python. In this article we introduce each of languages, provides some insightful information about each one, and point out useful resources for readers.

THE BASIC SHELLS

The basic UNIX shells come in three main language forms. These are and in order of creation; Bourne Shell, C Shell, and the Korne Shell). Be aware that there are several dialects of these script languages, which tend to make them all slightly platform specific. The different dialects are due, in the main, to the different UNIX flavors in use on some platforms.

All script languages though have at their heart a common core, which if used correctly will guarantee portability.

Why use Shells? There are three reasons: (1) It is the simplest way to string a bunch of UNIX commands for execution at any time without the need for prior compilation; (2) It's generally fast to get a script going, not forgetting the ease with which other scripters can read the code and understand what is happening; and (3) they are generally completely portable across the whole UNIX world, as long as they have been written to a common standard.

The Bourne Shell

Historically the Bourne shell language, or **sh**, was the first to be created. It has a very compact syntax, which makes it obtuse for novice users but very efficient when used by experts. It also contains some power constructs built in. On UNIX systems, most of the scripts used to start and configure the operating system are written in the Bourne shell. It has been around for so long that is it virtually bug free.

The C Shell

Next up is the C Shell, or csh, so called because of the similar syntactical structures to the C language. The UNIX man pages contain almost twice as much information for the C Shell as the pages for the Bourne shell, leading most users to believe that it is twice as good. This is a shame because there are several compromises within the C shell, which makes using the language for serious work difficult (check the list of bugs at the end of the man pages!). True, there are so many functions available within the C Shell that if one should fail another could be found. The point is do you really want to spend your time finding all the alternative ways of doing the same thing just to keep yourself out of trouble. The real reason why the C Shell is so popular is that it is usually selected as the default login shell for most users. The features that guarantee its continued use in this area are aliases, and history lists.

Paul Ammann works as Network Security Engineer for a logistics company in Connecticut. He was been working with UNIX and Linux for the last 5 years. When not working, he is busy working on his Nokia Firewall Manager project, or plotting the next vacation adventure with his wife Eve. He can be reached at amani@users.sourceforge.net.

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The Korne Shell

Lastly, we come to the Korne Shell, or **ksh**, made famous by IBM's AIX flavor of UNIX. The Korne shell can be thought of as a superset of the Bourne shell as it contains the whole of the Bourne shell world within its own syntax rules. The extensions over and above the Bourne shell exceed even the level of functionality available within the C shell (but without any of the compromises!), making it the obvious language of choice for real scripters.

What is a Shell Script Anyway?

A shell script, in its most basic form, is simply a collection of operating system commands put into a text file in the order they are needed for execution. Using any of the shell mentioned so far, a text file containing the commands listed in Example 1 would work every time the script was executed.

Code 1. Basic shell script

```
#!/bin/sh
rm -f /tmp/listing.tmp > /dev/null 2>&1
touch /tmp/listing.tmp
ls -1 [a-2]*.doc | sort > /tmp/listing.tmp
lpr -Ppostscript_1 /tmp/listing.tmp
rm -f /tmp/listing.tmp
```

Of course not all scripts are this simple but it shows that ordinary UNIX commands can be used without any extra, fancy scripting constructs. If this script was executed any number of times the result would the same, a long listing of all the files starting with lower case letters and ending with a **doc** extension from the current directory printed on your local PostScript printer.

If Shell scripting isn't for you, there are two other languages to consider: Perl and Python. Both languages are similar in functionality. However, in terms of syntax, they are as different as night and day. In the next section, we'll take a close look at both of these languages, and develop UNIX daemon that will demonstrate the same functionality and the contrast of syntax.

PERL VS. PYTHON

Perl is a language optimized for scanning arbitrary text files, extracting information from those text files, and printing reports based on that information. It's also a good language for many system management tasks. The language is intended to be practical (i.e., easy to use, efficient, complete) rather than beautiful.

Perl combines some of the best features of C, **sed**, **awk**, and **sh**, so people familiar with those languages should have little difficulty with it. Expression syntax corresponds closely to C expression syntax. Unlike most UNIX utilities, Perl does not arbitrarily limit the size of your data— if you have the memory, Perl can slurp in your whole file as a single string. Recursion is of unlimited depth. In addition, the tables used by hashes grow as necessary to prevent degraded performance. Perl can use sophisticated pattern matching techniques to scan large amounts of data quickly.

On the other hand, Python is simple to use, and it's more of a real programming language, offering much more structure and support for large programs. It also offers much more error checking than C, and, being a *very high-level language*, it has high-level data types built in, such as flexible arrays and dictionaries that would cost you days to implement efficiently in C. Because of its more general data types, Python is applicable to much larger problem domain than **awk** or even Perl.

Python allows writing very compact readable programs. This is do to the fact that statement grouping is done by indentation instead of begin/end brackets. Like Perl, Python is an interpreted language; however, Python is an object-oriented language like C++ but without the headaches of constructors or destructors.

I could go on and on about Perl and Python. However, I'll let the code speak for itself.

Writing a UNIX Daemon in Perl and Python

The word *daemon* is derived from the Greek word *daimon*, meaning "a supernatural being" or "spirit", rather than demon, referring to the fallen angels or followers of Satan. Some would insist that UNIX is infested with both daemons and demons. In UNIX, daemons are typically started by the root process when the operating system is initialized, and run in the background indefinitely. Daemons typically spend most of their time waiting for an event or period when they will perform some task.

UNIX Processes

Before we explore the details of what a daemon is, let's review the characteristics of a UNIX process. First, let's take a look at a partial process list:

> ps ax PPID	PID	PGID	SID	TTY	TP	GID STA	T UI	D TIME
COMMAND	1	0		9 ?	-1	S	0	0:03
init				5. 25	7	(6)	- 25	
1	2	1		1 ?	- 1	SW	0	0:00
[kflush	d]							
1	3	1		1 ?	-1	SW	0	0:00
[kpiod]								
1	4	1		1 ?	- 1	SW	0	0:00
[kswapd								
1	548	548	548	?	- 1	S	0	0:00
httpd								
548	557	548	548	?	- 1	S	99	0:00
httpd	e e e	6.1.6	H-7778	-	- 4		***	
548	558	548	548	7	- 1	S.	99	0:00
httpd	FFA	5.7.6	510	200	9	24.0	0.0	0.00
548	559	548	548	7	-1	2	99	0:00
httpd 548	560	548	548	-0	-1	12	99	0:00
httpd	300	240	140	88	-1	0	99	0:00
548	561	548	548	9	-1	C	99	0:00
httpd	201	240	240	4	- 1	0	99	0.00
548	562	548	548	2	+1	C.	99	0:00
httpd	202	240	240	*	+	D	22	0.00
548	563	548	548	?	-1	S	99	0:00
httpd	-500	100.000		e.		T	2020	1200
	2452	2452	2452	pts/5	257€	5 S	501	0:00

The first column is the parent process id, the process id of the process that created it. The second column contains the process id, which is assigned by the kernel. The next column is the process group id. The fourth column is the session id. A session is a collection of session groups. The next column contains the tty, or controlling terminal, that's related to the process. This is typically a terminal or remote login shell.

Daemon Rules

There are several rules or characteristics that most daemons possess. If a daemon does not follow these basic rules, it will most likely become a demon and wreak havoc on your system.

Fork and Exit

The first thing a daemon should do is fork() a child process and have the parent process exit(). This is necessary for several reasons. First, it disassociates the process from the controlling terminal, or the login shell. Second, it removes the process from the process group that initiated the program. This ensures that the process is not a process group leader, which is required for setsid() to run successfully.

Call setid()

setsid() is a POSIX function that turns the process into a session leader, group leader, and ensures that it doesn't have a controlling terminal.

Change Working Directory

The current working directory should be changed with chdir to the root directory (/). This is necessary to avoid using a working directory that resides on a mounted partition. If the process is started on a mounted partition, the system administrator wouldn't be able to unmount the partition until the process was halted. You could specify a different working directory as long as it doesn't reside on a remotely mounted partition.

File Creation Mode

The umask determines the default permissions new files are assigned. Setting umask to 0 removes the defaults that might otherwise disable permissions the daemon intended to enable when creating files.

Close Unneeded File Handles

Besides closing any filehandles that might have been opened, daemons often redirect STDIN to read from, and STDOUT and STDERR to write to /dev/null.

Code Example 2. Redirecting STDIN, STDOUT and STDERR in Perl open STDIN, '/dev/null';
open STDOUT, '>/dev/null';
open STDERR, '>/dev/null';

Code Example 3. Redirecting STDIN, STDOUT and STDERR in Python

sys.stdout = open("/dev/null", 'w')
sys.stderr = open("/dev/null", 'w') sys.stdin = open("/dev/null", 'r')

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Logging Messages

\$error_log: \$!";

In some cases, you may want to record an error or message to a log file on the system. This can be accomplished by redirecting STDOUT and STDERR to one or more log files.

```
Code Example 4. Redirecting STDOUT and STDERR to one or more log files in Perl open STDOUT. ">>$access_log" or die "Can't write to $access_log: $!"; open STDERR, ">>$error_log" or die "Can't write to
```

Code Example 5, Redirecting STDOUT and STDERR to one or more log files in Python

```
try:
    sys.stdout = open(">>access_log", 'w')
except:
    print "Can't write to access_log"
try:
    sys.stderr = open(">>error_log", 'w')
except:
    print "Can't write to error_log"
```

Writing the Daemon

Now that we understand the basic attributes of a daemon, let's put the pieces together into a simple Perl/Python program.

```
Code Example 6. Simple Daemon in Perl #!/usr/bin/env perl
```

```
# load required modules
use strict:
use POSIX qw(setsid);
chdir '/'
                             or die "Can't chdir to /: $!";
umask 0;
                           or die "Can't read /dev/null:
open STDIN, '/dev/null'
# open STDOUT, '>/dev/null' or die "Can't write to
/dev/null: $!";
open STDERR, '>
/dev/null: $!";
             '>/dev/null' or die "Can't write to
defined(my $pid = fork)
                           or die "Can't fork: $!";
exit if $pid:
                             or die "Can't start a new
setsid
session: $!":
while(1) (
   sleep(5):
   print "Hello...\n";
Code Example 7. Simple Daemon in Python
#!/usr/bin/env python
import os, sys, time
os.chdir("/")
os.umask(0)
    sys.stdout = open("/dev/null", 'w')
except:
    print "Can't read /dev/null"
    # sys.stderr = open("/dev/null". 'w')
    pass
except:
    print "Can't write to /dev/null"
    sys.stdin = open("/dev/null", 'r')
except:
    print "Can't write to /dev/null"
```

```
try:
    pid = os.fork()
except:
    print "Can't fork"
if pid:
    sys.exit(1)

try:
    os.setsid()
except:
    print "Can't start a new session"

while (1):
    time.sleep(5)
    print "Hello..."
```

Code Examples 6 and 7 are a simple daemon that will print **Hello...** to the console every five seconds. Also, looking at both examples, notice that the line of the program has been commented out. Removing the comment will suppress the hello message by sending all standard output to /dev/null. Also, notice that we included the POSIX library and explicitly imported the **setsid** function since this function is part of the POSIX library, not a built-in Perl function. One other little critical piece is the **while(1)** { } loop with **sleep(5)** inside. The loop ensures that the script will run indefinitely. The sleep function sets the number of seconds between each iteration in the loop. The main body of your code will site inside this while loop.

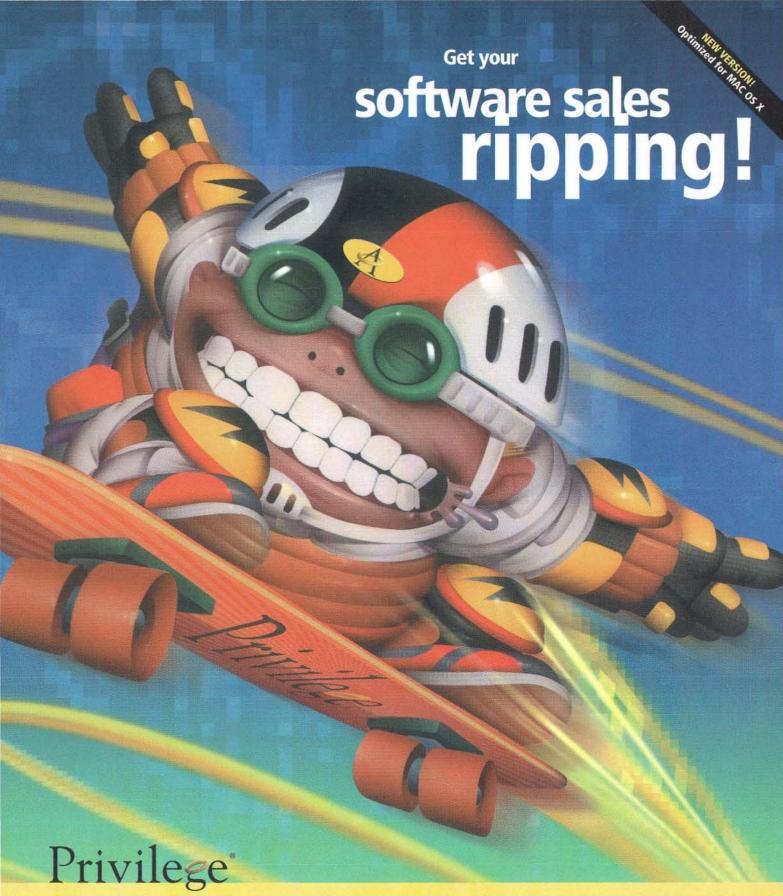
In this brief tutorial, we learned how to create a robust daemon in both Perl and Python for most any UNIX system. Which language is better? I don't know. Perl has been around since 1993 and there is a treasure chest of source code available for it. However, there is nothing to stop you from porting Perl code over to Python, just a few minor changes.

RESOURCES

For readers who are interested in learning more about Shell programming, I can highly recommend *UNIX Shell Programming* by Stephen G. Kochan and Patrick H Wood. I keep one copy at home, and one at work. In addition, check out Heiner Steven's web site SHELLdorado (http://www.shelldorado.com/) and Sun Microsystems has a very resourceful web site (http://www.sun.com/bigadmin/scripts/index.html).

If you are interested in getting your feet with Perl, *Learning Perl* by Randal L. Schwartz and Tom Phoenix is my pick. By the time you've finished this book, you will know if Perl is the right language for you without making a huge investment. For me, *Core Python Programming* by Wesley J. Chun was the book that converted me from Perl. Enough said.

Regardless if you choose Perl or Python, check out Active State, which make IDE programs for both languages and has a large library of code for beginners (http://aspn.activestate.com/ASPN/Cookbook/). If you decide to write a major application with either, I would recommend wxPerl (http://wxperl.sourceforge.net/) and wxPython (http://wxpython.org/). Both software libraries are derivates of wxWindows (http://www.wxwindows.org), which is a free C++ framework to make cross-platform programming child's play. Well, almost. Enjoy!



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By John C. Welch

Heterogeneous Networks as a Defense Mechanism

Why a genetically diverse network has advantages that a network of clones can't match

WELCOME

Crackers. Viral attacks. Inside attacks. The computing world is fraught with peril these days. Yet as much as we would like to hide away from these things or ignore them, we have to deal with computers, computer networks, and the security and privacy issues they bring. But the question is always, how do we counter all the bad things in the computing world so that we can get to work? There are quite a few methods, some more common than others, none of which are a panacea. The most used methods are prophylactic, or external defenses/protections, and while they have achieved a certain amount of success, such measures, in the end, guarantee a certain amount of failure as well.

EXTERNAL DEFENSES AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

The way most people defend their networks and computers are by creating barriers to external attacks. For example, to defend against virii, we buy antivirus applications. We use firewalls to prevent crackers from gaining access. We use arcane password requirements and policies, and stringent policing of internal network usage to keep employees and other authorized users from causing damage. More concisely, we use prophylactic hardware, software, etc. Now, I'm not going to say these are bad, or unnecessary actions. In fact, they are quite intelligent actions. But, as we will see, on their own, they are not ever going to be enough.

PROBLEMS

Virii

Virus defense is a particularly thorny issue. In the last few years, you've gone from only having to update viruses monthly, to daily updates. You have to scan almost every file that you download or use, and you have to repeatedly scan the same files,

because virus writers get smarter all the time. Viruses are also becoming smarter, or at least more flexible in design and execution. They change their code each time they run, they dance from sector to sector of the drive, some will even dodge virus scans.

It's not even an operating system issue any more. Application - based virii have surpassed operating system virii in number and infection rates. It's also not just a Microsoft application issue. QuickTime, Adobe Acrobat, and other applications from different vendors are being infected. Services are getting slammed the same way. IIS, and other Web/Internet services are being used as viral delivery mechanisms. While things like IIS attacks are limited to a single operating system, the way services like IIS work means that the virii that target them can also hurt non-Windows services by creating a denial of service, (DOS) attack situation as they probe Apache, iPlanet, WebSTAR, and other Web Service Servers looking for a valid entry point.

Unfortunately, the image of a virus creator as some demented savant with no social skills sitting alone in the dark wreaking havoc on a cruel world is absolutely incorrect. There are now virus 'kits' on the Internet that allow anyone who can work a GUI to create virii that are quite advanced in nature while possessing only minimal technical abilities. The 'Kournikova' virus is an example. The creator of this Microsoft Outlook virus was not a cracker, or any other kind of programmer. He wasn't a computer expert of any kind. He was an Anna Kournikova fan who wanted to spread her fame. The method he chose, while damaging and annoying, was the modern version of Led Zeppelin fans in the 1970s spray painting 'Zofo' on bridges and highway overpasses. So almost anyone with Internet access can create viruses.

While antivirus vendors have done an admirable job, with on the fly scanners, email attachment scanning, server scanning, heuristic analysis, (which looks for virus - like behavior as opposed to static 'signatures'), there is still a problem with relying on antivirus utilities as the sole form of protection. Delay. There is always a delay between the discovery of the virus and the release of the inoculation definitions. As well, there is a delay between the announcement of the release and the downloading and vaccination of infected systems. There is also the delays in

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release times between different antivirus vendors of new definitions. In the case of a virus like Code Red, which spread at amazingly high speeds, this means that network administrators have to shut down vulnerable systems until the systems can be cleaned. With Code Red, this meant shutting down entire networks. Clearly, the measure - countermeasure - counter-countermeasure dance of virus and antivirus is not a winning strategy. (This should in *no* way be interpreted as saying that antiviral utilities are not worth the effort. Any security and protection plan should be layered, and antiviral utilities are a critical part of at least one of those layers. Even on platforms with a normally low rate of infection, if there is an antiviral utility available, and you aren't using it because 'you never see <my platform> being infected, that just happens to <some other platform>, then you are, to put it nicely, deluding yourself.)

Security and crackers

Non-viral attack points are everywhere as well. The recent announcements of vulnerabilities in SNMP and PHP affect any operating system that can run these services, (which is almost all of them, and in the case of SNMP, includes non - Mac OS X Macs.) Security holes are endemic on all platforms, even if they don't get the same level of publicity as the Microsoft security holes.

While all of these holes can be patched, there is the same delay as with virii. The vendor has to be notified of vulnerabilities, the vulnerability has to be analyzed, fixed, the fix tested, and distributed. In some cases, the patch creates other problems which have to go through the notification-analysis-fix-fix test-fix distribution cycle. Meanwhile, crackers are able to use these holes to break into systems and at very least, increase an already overburdened IT department's workload, which almost ensures that mistakes will be made in patch implementation, creating situations where systems that aren't patched are thought to be patched, and are now 'stealth holes' into a network.

A major problem with defending against crackers in this manner is one that you can't patch or secure against, and that is the attitude that the non-IT world takes towards them. For the most part, they are either viewed as misguided, or crusaders helping overworked, or (more commonly) inept IT people secure their networks. Because people don't think of computer data as 'real' and time has never been seen to have an inherent cost in IT, since we are all paid on salary, the time that these criminals take from IT people is seen as the IT person's just reward for not doing their jobs correctly. One cracker, Adrian Lamo, has gained a measure of fame as a 'security crusader' by breaking into systems, changing data, then informing the owners of the system of his attack, then offering his services to fix the holes.

Now, I think that any intelligent network administrator will, at some point, hire someone to try and penetrate their security. That is the only way to ensure that you have done things correctly. But the important thing here is that the people running the attacks have been *hired* for that purpose. If someone cracks your network, without being authorized to do so, then there is a more precise term for their actions: Breaking and Entering.

I am completely serious about this. If you came home, and found someone sitting in your Barcalounger watching your TV, drinking your beer, and they told you that they had broken into your home to show you how bad your security is, and they'll happily fix that for you if you hire them as a security consultant, you would first laugh at them, then call the cops. There is no difference save the physicality of the house break in. But because computers aren't 'real' then breaking into one isn't a 'crime' in most people's eyes. That attitude needs to be changed. Professionals don't break into my systems if they want me to hire them. They come to me and offer their services. If I accept, then they try to find my security holes, and help me close them. If I don't accept, then they go away except for annoying sales calls. If I get a visitor telling me how they broke into my network, and offering their services so it can't happen again, the first thing I'm doing is calling the cops. The second thing I'm doing is hiring a professional security consultant to work with me to patch these holes. If nothing else, am I seriously supposed to professionally trust someone who uses a lack of ethics as a sales tool?

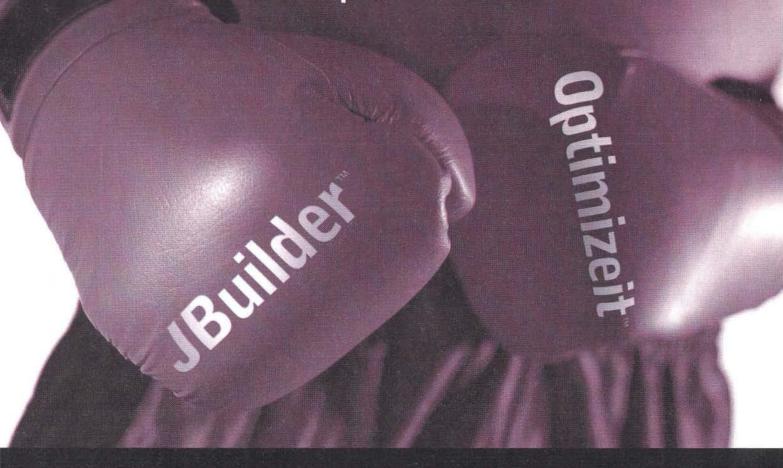
But increased security isn't the 'uber-fix' that people think it is either. In some cases, security can create it's own problems if applied incorrectly. Overzealous security policies applied without thought to their effects on the people that have to live with them can make daily use of computer resources so difficult that employees feel they have to find ways around them just to get work done. Email scanning for dangerous payloads is often used as an excuse to scan email content for 'inappropriate content', which is defined so nebulously that employees feel the need to use non-company email accounts while at work, which creates more security holes that have to be patched, and still more onerous security policies.

One of the sillier side effects of the viral problems that gets passed off as security is the severe restriction or even banning of email attachments. This is not just an IS policy issue. One of Microsoft's first anti-viral Outlook updates essentially made it impossible to use attachments with Outlook. Obviously this is not a sane answer. Attachments make email far more useful than it could otherwise be. Yes, they can be misused, but so can HTML email, and no one seems to be starting a trend to ban that. If you restrict email to the point where no one wants to use it, then you are just killing a critical tool to avoid a problem that you will end up with anyway.

Remember that in general, the more secure a system is, the harder it is to use. This is particularly evident when you see companies implementing physical security policies like removing floppy / CD drives, or placing locks on them so that you can't casually use them. While a company is perfectly in the legal right to do this, such a serious indication that the employees can't be trusted is never a good policy unless you have other security requirements that *require* you to do this.

So security is even more of a balancing act than antivirus defenses are. If you go too far, the system becomes unusable. If you don't go far enough, then you are under attack constantly, by your own machines in many cases.

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Human issues

These are not only the most complex, but they will also cause you the most problems if not dealt with correctly. First, you have user training. If you do not train the people on the network correctly and hold them accountable to that training, then you don't have a prayer of any other external protections working. But there are inherent problems that crop up constantly with the user training solutions.

Training isn't cheap. External training can cost from a couple of hundred to a couple of thousand dollars per person per course. This can get prohibitively expensive for larger corporations. In house trainers may be cheaper, but what department wants to have to deal with that headache and expense. You still need facilities, equipment, lesson plans, courseware, study materials, etc. As well, the first budget to be cut, and the last to be restored is always the training budget. So what ends up happening is a new employee gets a list of 'Don'ts' that they read just enough to find the part where they are supposed to sign, acknowledging that they have indeed absorbed these important items into the very fiber of their being, hand it back to their boss, or HR, and then forget it ever existed. Training could be one of the best defenses against network break-ins and viral attacks, but not until it is seen as being as critical as power, water, and the CEO's bonus.

While eliminating training of the general user population seems as ignorant and short - sited as it is, it pales to the way that most corporations treat the people tasked with keeping the network safe and running efficiently. IT departments will be told that they are critical to a company's operations, then get their budgets slashed due to reasons from the economy to the CEO hearing from a golf partner that outsourcing will save him more money than the company makes in a year. The IT staff has to deal with every facet of a network and all attached devices, yet they get no more of a training budget than anyone else, namely none. In addition, since they are usually looked at as a drain on the company's bottom line, their requests for additional funding get analyzed more than almost any other department.

IT departments are perennially short - staffed, even as their workload increases yearly, monthly, sometimes daily. Companies tell you up front that you get paid for 40 hours, but the minimum work week is 60 hours, with mandatory overtime. If you try to do your job in eight hours and go home, you are seen as 'not a team player', and let go at the first opportunity. The problem this creates is high turnover rates, with some companies replacing entire departments every couple of years when the numbers are averaged out. As a result, there is almost no 'institutional' memory in corporate IT departments, because that requires that your senior IT staffer not be the only one to have been there for over a year.

Ideally, the IT people will document what they do, so that when they are gone, there is a history of what has been done to and with the network. The reality is that when you are as overworked as most IT people are, documentation never even enters the picture, much less actually getting done. So every time an IT person leaves, that knowledge is gone, and has to be

relearned by the next person, who then leaves, and the cycle continues. Some companies are trying to do something about this, but they are too few, and still too far ahead of the curve for it to become standard practice.

What this means is that you cannot always rely on having an IT staff that is intimately familiar with your network, because chances are they either haven't been employed long enough to have achieved that level of knowledge, or are on the way out, and no longer care.

END RESULTS

The end results of these factors is that prophylactic protection, because of inherent implementation issues, useless training initiatives, and IT staff turnover, simply cannot work on their own. But there is another cause that accelerates these results, and it is genetic in nature.

NETWORK HOMOGENEITY IS A ROOT ENABLER FOR NETWORK VULNERABILTY

Almost any article on increasing your IT efficiency, improving your ROI, decreasing IT expenditures, making your network easier to manage and protect will eventually recommend that you take, among any other human or computer actions, the step of standardizing your computing platforms on a single client and server platform. I propose that regardless of what platform you settle on, that by making your network completely, or almost completely homogenous, that you are creating vulnerabilities that no amount of protection can fix.

The best examples of this are in the non-computing world. Human and animal diseases spread fastest when there is a degree of genetic uniformity among the species being attacked. It is well known among animal and plant breeders that any group that is too inbred is vulnerable to diseases and conditions than a group with a more diverse genetic background. The histories of plant infestations demonstrate how a single species can be nearly destroyed within a relatively short time by a single disease. The Irish famine of earlier centuries is a rather extreme example of this. The potato crops in Ireland were nearly destroyed by a blight, which, due to the almost total dependence on that plant by the Irish people, caused a massive famine.

Other examples of the ways that excessive genetic similarity creates problems are the conditions and diseases that only affect certain groups of people, or affect only certain groups in any kind of number, such as sickle-cell anemia. This example can easily be applied to network design and implementation.

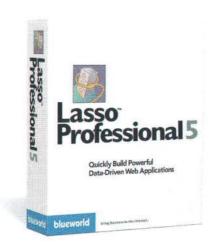
If you have a network that is all, or mostly homogenous, then a new virus has a guaranteed population to infect and spread itself from. A homogenous network with high-speed connections, and heavy traffic spread virii at astounding rates before the infection is discovered and dealt with. Melissa, Code Red, Kournikova, and the rest are perfect examples of this. The world - wide rate of Code Red infection should have been a wake up call, and it was, but only lately is it becoming the *right* kind of wake up call.

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No matter how good your defenses, if your network is nothing but a series of clones, then they all have exactly the same weaknesses to virii, or crackers. This has nothing to do with platform. An all - Sun, or all - Mac OS X network is just as vulnerable to a Sun or Mac OS X - specific attack as an all Windows network is to something like Code Red, or Melissa. Because the virii or attacker only has to deal with a single set of possible entry points, the job of the cracker or virus creator is greatly simplified. All they have to do is construct the virus or attack around a given platform's weaknesses, and they are assured of at least early success. If the people breaking into your network, or writing virii are actually talented or skilled, they can use that target specificity to make avoiding detection even easier. If all you have to deal with is Windows, or Solaris, or HP-UX, then you have a much better chance of avoiding detection simply because the conditions you have to deal with are drastically reduced. Popularity of platform, not quality of platform is why most virii center on Windows.

We don't, (for the most part), approve of cloning for humans or domesticated animals, so why do we not only approve of it for computing, but champion it as the answer to all our problems? If genetic homogeneity is a threat to well - being everywhere outside of computers, how can any intelligent person think that those problems magically disappear just because it's a computer? It's not just computers where this falls down. If the US Air Force consisted of nothing but F-16s and B-1Bs, then defeating the USAF in battle goes from an extremely difficult goal to one that is relatively simple. The level of homogeneity that exists in some computer networks would be thought of as either illegal or the height of stupidity in any other area, so why continue to use a method that is so obviously flawed?

Money spells it out quite well. By having single sources for hardware, software, and service, your up front costs for a computing environment are greatly reduced. Regardless of platform, if everything comes from one place, you save money, initially. Up front costs are also the most obvious. How do you show that you saved money because something didn't happen? You almost can't, short of letting the attack or infection happen, tallying the costs, and using that as justification for implementing diversity. While this would clearly show the hidden costs of over - homogenizing your network, the lack of ethics inherent in such an action would, and should get the people involved in such an action fired, if not arrested and sued. To put it bluntly, you cannot really show the cost of something that didn't happen. The best you can do is use the misfortune of others as your justification.

GENETIC DIVERSITY IN NETWORKS AS A STRENGTH AGAINST ATTACK

So, how do you go about implementing genetic diversity on your network? You have to correctly analyze your needs. Too many IT divisions get suckered into using the preferred platform as the basis for determining network implementation. If you look at everything from the standpoint of "How do we get <Windows/Solaris/Mac OS X/AIX> to fix this problem, you're

already doomed. The platform has to be determined by the solution, not vice - versa. (This is not to say that you will never have a need for limited amounts of homogeneity. If you have a group of people that are writing Windows drivers, then obviously they need to have Windows computers. Anything else would be inane.)

DEFINE THE PROBLEM CORRECTLY

Rather than think about it from the platform, think about the problem on its own. What is the problem? We need faster file servers? We need better network management? Define the problem on its own. The need for faster file servers has nothing to do with Windows or Linux, unless the current servers are running those operating systems. Even then, that should only be an historical note. At this stage, no platform should be excluded from consideration.

Advantages

The advantages of correct problem definition are numerous. First, you can avoid going for the quick solution that may only mask the problem. I have seen problems with speed that are really caused by an overburdened infrastructure get patched by adding servers so that each server has less work to do. The infrastructure is still overburdened, but the problem is hidden because the individual servers are more lightly loaded.

Another advantage is that you often find the problem is not nearly as complex as it initially seemed. For example, there was a company with a normally reliable 16Mbps Token Ring network that one day started to go down almost constantly with no apparent reason. One of the first proposals was to yank out all the Token Ring infrastructure and replace it with Ethernet. Luckily the expense that this solution entailed kept it from being immediately implemented. What the problem turned out to be were unlabeled jacks. It seems the company had recently upgraded the number of network drops, and each faceplate had two network drops, along with a phone jack, but the labeling of the jacks had been put off for last, so the jacks could be installed marginally faster. Both the phone system and the Token Ring connectors were RJ - type connectors, the phones using RJ-11 connectors, and the Token Ring cables using RJ-45 connectors. So, a single user, not realizing the difference, plugged the phone into the Token Ring port. There was just enough contact between the connectors in the plug and the cable so that the net result was the network was going down, seemingly without cause. The correct solution ended up being essentially free, and far less traumatic than a complete infrastructure replacement would have been.

So defining the problem correctly, without preconceived solutions is critical to correctly implementing a genetically diverse network.

ANALYZE EVERY POSSIBLE SOLUTION

So you have defined the problem. Next, see what the possible solutions are. Platform should still not be a factor here.

You need to look at all possible solutions for appropriateness that is not specific to any platform. In our file server speed solution, a possible solution may be to give all users 100GB UltraSCSI RAID stacks on their desks. However, this is impractical for many reasons, none of which have to do with the platform on the user's desk. But all the solutions need to be looked at. There are too many instances of unconventional solutions turning out to be the perfect solution for a problem. While it may be a trite and overused term, 'thinking outside the box' is the best description of what should happen here.

Winnow the list of possible solutions objectively

That's not to say that standard solutions should be tossed aside either. *All* solutions, both conventional and unconventional need to be looked at with the same objectivity. Don't worry that you will have such a large list of solutions that you won't be able to pick a solution. There are always going to be requirements that will help determine the solution. For example, while a fibre - channel SAN may be a faster way to serve files, if you don't have a fibre-channel setup in place, the fiscal and time costs of such a solution may remove it from the list.

Space limitations are an example of a factor that is going to apply to any solution, and is platform neutral. If you only have a small amount of space in your server room for a new server, then a solution that involves hundred - station Linux clusters may not be practical at this time. Network limitations are another example. That reconditioned AS/400 may indeed be a cheap and fast server, but if it can only use Twinax and you only can implement Ethernet, then this is not a good solution.

The point is, make sure that you use unavoidable limitations to winnow your solutions list first. Network, physical, fiscal, these are all limits that should take precedence over the operating system and platform for the server.

Standards are good, but in moderation

So now you have a manageable solutions list. What about computing standards? Well, as long as you don't go overboard, and apply standards to where they need to be applied, they can be an aid. Too many companies standardize on operating system or application, when they would be better off standardizing on data format. If you want to ensure uniformity of final output, standardizing on Windows and Word or Solaris and LaTex will not do nearly as much good as standardizing your fonts, image formats, and data formats. Limiting your font usage, standardizing on a small number of image formats, such as TIFF, JPEG, MPEG, EPS, etc., and using Acrobat as your final output of choice is going to give you all the benefits of standardization, but will leave you with a far more capable tool box than a single platform and application will. It also means that if the preferred application or platform is under attack, you can still get work done.

This does not mean just randomly seed different platforms about your network. First, if you have 100 people in a group using Windows, and one person using a Mac, all you create are problems for yourself. Implementing a different platform has to

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800-231-5920 800-757-9003 (Fax) das@scientific.com be done in a planned logical way. Willy - nilly is a fun way to do many things, but network design is not one of them.

Common knowledge is always wrong

One of the signs that a solution is going to be bad is when it starts with any variant of "Well, everyone knows..." There is nothing in computing that everyone knows that is ever universally correct. "Everyone knows" that AppleTalk is chatty and getting rid of it will make things better. Well, to quote an Apple engineer on the AppleShareIP team:

"On Bandwidth:

An idle connection to an AppleShare server (via IP) sends 2 tickle packets of about 64 bytes in size every 30 seconds (call it 4 bytes/second or 0.00024% of a 10 Mega Bit [10 Base-T] connection <1 may be off by a factor of 10 either way, its early>). When transferring files, AFP is just as efficient as any other well implemented IP protocol, a single client can, under ideal conditions fill the pipe with minimal overhead. For a 16k read/write we have 28 bytes of AFP/DSI protocol info on top of 780 bytes of TCP/IP protocol info for a payload efficiency of about91% (it takes 12 packets to move 16k of data).

So maybe everybody knows nothing. The point here is don't assume anything. The solution is good or bad based on the facts, not assumptions, attitudes, personal prejudices, the magnetic pull of the Moon, Kentucky windage, etc. If you let anything but the facts and reality guide your selection of a solution, then you may as well throw darts at the list, you'll have as much luck that way as any, and it's probably more fun.

IMPLEMENTING DIVERSITY

So, the solution to the new file server is a new server. It has to be able to authenticate against your active directory servers transparently, it has to support Windows clients smoothly, and it has to fit into your Veritas backup solution. Congratulations, you have a multitude of platforms to pick from. Samba can easily handle Windows clients and use an upstream Active Directory server to handle authentication requests. Veritas supports a wide range of client platforms, including Mac OS X, so you can freely pick from any of them.

You'll get a new, faster file server. Your users will be happier because they get to their files faster, with the same reliability. Because you can choose from a wider range of vendors, you get better competition for your business, which means your upfront costs are smaller. But even better, what happens when a Windows virus comes ripping through your network and hits that Linux file server?

It dies. Stops. That machine isn't infected. Those files are safe. What happens when some cracker larvae is using the latest Solaris hack to get past your firewall, and hits your Mac OS X file server? The same thing. He now has to figure out what this operating system is, and then find ways to crack it. He may indeed find a new crack, but that Solaris - specific hole that he used is closed at least here.

By having a genetically diverse network, you aren't losing anything, except the loss of security and capability that comes with a building full of genetically identical clones. Your up front costs don't have to be any higher. You may have a learning curve on the new platform, but those aren't as bad as they seem to be, and the Internet has terabytes of information that will help you along. By having a mixture of server platforms and client platforms you create firebreaks on your network. You ensure that no single attack that is targeted at a single vulnerability is able to completely compromise your entire network unchecked. While Code Red may load down an iPlanet web server, it's certainly not going to abuse it in the same way as it will an unpatched IIS server. Outlook viruses become merely amusing if you aren't using Outlook as your only email client.

In addition, you gain a whole host of capabilities that you simply cannot achieve in a homogenous environment. Unix, Windows, Mac OS X, AS/400s, NetWare, *BSD, Linux, et al all have unique strengths and weaknesses that can compliment each other. There are products that only exist on a single, or small number of platforms that can be of great use to you, but only if you have that platform available.

Even better, when you combine a genetically diverse network with a well - thought out set of prophylactic measures, such as antivirus programs and intrusion monitors, both methods become more effective and secure. Even if one of your low - infection platforms does get infected, the damage that occurs will be limited because the other platforms won't be infected. Not only is the damage mitigated, but you also have more time to prevent a similar problem on the other platforms. The prophylactic protections don't take up as much of your time, because they have a genetic backup in place. They have less to watch out for, because your firebreaks are intercepting and halting much of the damage before it hits vulnerable systems. As well, other prophylactic measures can help you stop the problem before it hits vulnerable or targeted systems.

Genetic diversity is just another, less common way of removing a single point of failure. If you aren't going to do that, then why bother with RAID and failover servers, etc?

CONCLUSION

Genetic diversity isn't just some fad, or some keen idea that has no basis in reality. In fact, it has millennia of proof that it is a good tactic. It is a proven way to keep any population healthy and functional, no matter if you are talking about potatoes, humans, trees, cows, military forces, or computers. It may take more work than a clone farm, but the benefits are real, tangible, and undeniable. It's not a panacea, but it can, and will make your network stronger and more capable.

In the end, there is no magic bullet. Every form of protection, including genetic diversity on your network has a weakness. You have to combine network genetics and prophylactic measures, along with a lot of planning, to achieve the best results. Use both. The next time you buy a new box, if you already have a lot of that platform, see if maybe you can get the same, or even better results from a different platform. You'll learn more, you'll gain more capabilities, and the next time the Legion Of Bad People unleashes some hideous Windows, or Linux virus, you'll have a much better time than your counterparts in the lands of Windows and Linux clones.

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By Dan Wood, Alameda CA

The Beauty of Categories

Use This Objective-C Feature to Make Your Cocoa Code Cleaner

Ask any experienced Cocoa programmer what they like the most about Objective-C and the answer will invariably be "categories." Categories is one of the features of Objective-C, not found in Java or C++, that raises the body temperature of developers if you suggest they use another language.

What is It, and Why Use It?

A category is an extension of an existing class. But unlike inheritance, in which you create a new class that descends from another class, a category is like a remora, attaching itself to the belly of a shark and getting a free ride. By creating a category, you add new methods to an existing class, without needing to create a new one.

Writing in a language without categories, the programmer is often faced with the need to perform minor operations, acting upon an object for which source code is unavailable. These routines might end up as methods in the application class that needs to perform those operations, although that doesn't promote reuseability, since the operations are tied in with the enclosing class. A better approach, one more commonly used, is to collect these operations into a utility class.

On an open-source web application framework that I worked on, called Janx (available at www.bearriver.com) there is a string utilities class, for example. This class has operations to parse strings representing dollars and cents, encode a string for HTML display, generate a hexadecimal representation, build an MD5 digest from a string, and so forth. Each of these methods takes a string to operate upon as one of its parameters.

This "utility class" approach isn't particularly elegant either. Dissimilar operations tend to be grouped together into the same class. Each method must be passed in the object to operated upon as a parameter, which means that the functions that you write look and operate differently from methods that are part of the class, even if they perform similar operations.

Another approach to extending functionality is to create a subclass of an existing framework object, and add your new functionality into the subclass. For instance, you might subclass an existing "image" class to add operations. The problem is that you must now be sure to work only with instances of your new class; any objects that aren't must be converted.

If you are programming in a language such as C++ or Java without categories, though, you just deal with these limitations; they may not seem like limitations at all.

When you write an application in Cocoa using Objective C, you have the ability to put such functions directly into an existing class by creating a category on that class. No, you don't recompile the class with new methods in the file; in fact you usually don't have the source code to the class you are adding to.

UTILITIES VS. CATEGORIES

Let's take a look at how this might be done by implementing a utility function to strip quote marks off of a string. (We'll implement them both in Objective-C just to keep the playing field level.) We implement it as a method in a string utility class in listing 1 and 2; we implement it as a category on NSString in listing 3 and 4.

Listing 1: StringUtilities.h

```
#import <Foundation/Foundation.h>
@interface StringUtilities
+ (NSString *) stripQuotes:(NSString *)inString:
@end
```

Listing 2: StringUtilities.m

Dan Wood wrote Watson for Mac OS X, a Cocoa application that connects to a variety of Web services. You can reach him at dwood@karelia.com.

```
return result;
```

Listing 3: NSString+misc.h

```
#import <Foundation/Foundation.h>
@interface NSString ( misc )
- (NSString *) stripQuotes;
@end

Listing 4: NSString+misc.m
#import "NSString+misc.h"
@implementation NSString ( misc )
- (NSString *) stripQuotes
{
    NSString *result = self: // Return self if no stripping needed int len = [self length];
    if (len >= 2
        && '"' == [self characterAtIndex:0]
        && '"' == [self characterAtIndex:len-1])
        // Get the substring that doesn't include first and last character result = [self substringWithRange:NSMakeRange(1,len-2)];
    return result;
```

The implementations of these category looks much like the utility class; the main difference is that the string to operate upon is not passed in as a parameter; it is accessed with the self keyword. Things start to look different when you compare code that uses the category instead of a utility class. Here are snippets that use each approach.

Snippet using a utility class

```
NSString *stripped =
   [StringUtilities stripQuotes:theValue];
[lineDict setObject:stripped
   forKey:[theKey uppercaseString]];
Snippet using a category

NSString *stripped =
   [theValue stripQuotes];
[lineDict setObject:stripped
   forKey:[theKey uppercaseString]];
```

The code using the category is quite a bit cleaner because we don't have to be conscious of a separate utility class; it is just another operation on the string, just like the built-in uppercaseString method on the last line.

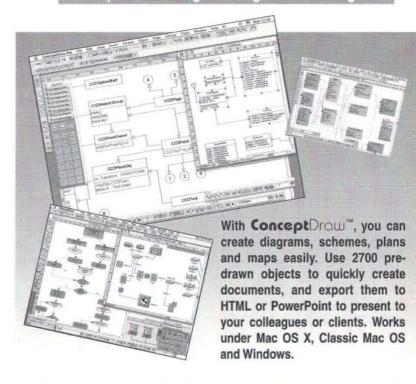
WRITING CATEGORIES

A category must have an @interface and @implementation section, just as a class. After the name of the class being added to is an arbitrary name which describes what the category is for, in parentheses. The example above uses "misc" as its name.

Normally, a category on a class gets its own ".h" and ".m" file; a convention is to name the file based on the class name concatenated with "+" to the category name. For example, the file NSImage+bitmap.m would be expected to hold @implementation NSImage (bitmap). This is not strictly

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neccesary; however; you could make a quick category interface and implementation right in your class file that makes use of the category; this would only be practical if it was not needed outside of the associated class.

Methods are declared and implemented just as they would be for any standard Objective-C's methods. Keep in mind, however that self is the class that you are implementing; feel free to send messages to self to operate on that object.

The one big limitation on categories is that you can only add functionality; you cannot add new data members to the class. There are no curly braces in the @interface section of a category. If you feel the need to add data members, you may want to consider subclassing instead.

USING CATEGORIES

The best thing about categories is that you can add whatever features to Cocoa you'd like to that you feel are "missing." Frustrated that NSImage lacks the +[NSImage imageFromData:] method? Add it in yourself! You can write generic categories and use them on all your projects, and make use of them as if you were using functionality of the classes provided by Apple. Or, you can create categories on an object as needed, whenever it seems more intuitive to extend the functionality of a Cocoa class rather than write a function to act upon that object.

You can even use categories on your own code, to help factor your application's classes into smaller, more manageable chunks. For instance, you might create separate categories to partition your document controller into preferences management, window management, and general functionality. Doing so makes your files smaller and makes your project more navigable. Cocoa itself makes heavy use of categories in this manner; it allows classes to be created in one library (such as Foundation Kit) and then extended in another (such as Application Kit).

One of the best places to use a category is to split up your class's private methods from its public ones, to overcome a limitation in Objective-C. Unlike C++ and Java, there's no way to specify the access of a method using keywords. So the solution is to create a new @interface for your category at the top of your class's ".m" file, holding the methods you do not want to be exposed in the ".h" file. This category would have a name such as "private" to indicate its purpose. Below that, the @implementation section of your class can then hold the implementation of both the public methods (declared in the ".h" file) and the private methods (declared in your private category). Other classes will not be able to see your private methods.

Usually, you will find yourself adding categories to classes in the Foundation Kit, because this kit tends to hold containers and utilities. You can even add categories to NSObject so that any object can respond to your new functionality. When there is a technique that requires bridging into Carbon or Core Foundation to accomplish your task, you could wrap it into a

category on a related class (or even find one online that somebody else has already written), so that if such functionality were to make its way into a future version of Cocoa, your code wouldn't have to change much.

EXAMPLES

Where you make use of categories is limited only by your imagination. It is useful to look at other people's source code just to get a sense of what kinds of categories are possible. Many source code packages are available for downloading at softrak.stepwise.com.

Here are a few examples that I have used in my own code. To make use of these, you would need to create @interface and @implementation sections following the guidelines above.

CATEGORY FOR NSIMAGE

A method to set an image size to be the size of its associated NSBitmapImageRepresentation so that the image displays at full size of 72 DPI. It finds the first bitmap it can, and sets the size of the bitmap and of the image to the pixel width and height.

```
(NSImage *) normalizeSize
NSBitmapImageRep *theBitmap = nil:
                    *reps = [self representations];
NSArray
                    newSize:
NSSize
for (i = 0 ; i < [reps count] ; i++)
  NSImageRep *theRep = [reps objectAtIndex;i];
if ([theRep isKindOfClass:[NSBitmapImageRep class]])
     theBitmap = (NSBitmapImageRep *)theRep;
if (nil != theBitmap) // Found a bitmap to resize
  newSize.width = [theBitmap pixelsWide]:
  newSize.height = [theBitmap pixelsHigh];
   [theBitmap setSize:newSize]:
                                     // resize bitmap
   [self setSize:newSize];
                                      // resize image
return self;
```

Category for NSBundle, NSDictionary, NSString, etc.

A comparison method (passing in another object of the same) so that you can sort an array of those objects by some property, using -[NSMutableArray sortUsingSelector:]. For example, you could sort an array of dictionaries by the value of their "name" key by passing in the selector for the following method.

```
(NSComparisonResult) compareSymbolName:
    (NSDictionary *) inDict

NSString *myName = [self objectForKey:@"name"];
NSString *otherName = [inDict objectForKey:@"name"];
return [myName caseInsensitiveCompare:otherName];
```

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Category for NSString

A method to return an attributed string as a blue underlined hyperlink, so that text fields can respond to link clicks as in a web browser. Text in an NSTextView with these attributes will send the message of textView: clickedOnLink: atIndex: to the view's delegate.

```
(NSAttributedString *)hyperlink
NSDictionary *attributes=
  [NSDictionary dictionaryWithObjectsAndKeys:
    [NSNumber numberWithInt:NSSingleUnderlineStyle].
      NSUnderlineStyleAttributeName,
                                       // link to the string itself
    self, NSLinkAttributeName,
    [NSFont systemFontOfSize:[NSFont smallSystemFontSize]].
      NSFontAttributeName,
     [NSColor blueColor], NSForegroundColorAttributeName,
    nil];
NSAttributedString *result=
  [[[NSAttributedString alloc]
    initWithString:self
    attributes:attributes] autorelease];
return result;
```

Category for NSWorkspace

A method to return the path of the current user's temporary directory. This makes use of the Carbon FindFolder() API, and then converts the C string into an NSString.

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```
(NSString *) temporaryDirectory
         s[1024]:
char
FSSpec
         spec:
FSRef
         ref:
         vRefNum:
short
long
        dirID:
if ( FindFolder(
  kOnAppropriateDisk, kChewableItemsFolderType, true,
    &vRefNum, &dirID ) == noErr )
  FSMakeFSSpec( vRefNum, dirID, "". &spec );
  if ( FSpMakeFSRef(&spec, &ref) == noErr )
    FSRefMakePath(&ref, s, sizeof(s));
    return [NSString stringWithCString:s]:
return nil:
```

Category for NSSet, NSArray, etc.

A method to build a string listing the strings in a collection, separated by commas. It enumerates through all objects in the structure, adding each string and then adding a comma. It then removes the extra comma (and space) at the end, after the list is traversed.

```
(NSString *) show
  NSString
                        *result = @"";
                                            // empty string if none in
collection
  NSMutableString
                        *buffer = [NSMutableString string]:
                        *theEnum = [self objectEnumerator];
  NSEnumerator
                       *theIdentifier:
  NSString
  while (nil != (theIdentifier = [theEnum nextObject]) )
     [buffer appendString:theIdentifier];
     [buffer appendString:@". "];
  // Delete final comma+space from the string if (![buffer isEqualToString:@""])
     [buffer deleteCharactersInRange:NSMakeRange(
    [buffer length]-2, 2)];
result = [NSString stringWithString:buffer];
  return result:
```

CONCLUSION

Hopefully you have been convinced that categories are a useful construct for programming in Cocoa. If you're not using Objective-C, you can certainly function without them. But if you are, then categories are a great way to make your code more readable, more reuseable, more maintainable, and simpler.

PROGRAMMER'S CHALLENGE

by Bob Boonstra, Westford, MA

MATCHSTICKS

Some time ago, Robin Landsbert sent me a suggestion for a Challenge based on a game he called Nim. In Robin's version of the game, matchsticks were arranged in rows forming a triangle, one matchstick in the top row, two in the next, three in the next, etc. Two players take turns removing one or more matchsticks from any single row of the board. The object is to make your opponent take the last matchstick.

A little research suggests that this version of the game might not be very difficult. So, in the tradition of the Challenge, we will add a few twists that might make the game (and the Challenge) more interesting. First, we will arrange our matchsticks in a square grid instead of a triangular one, and allow players to remove matchsticks from either a single row or a single column on a given turn. Second, we will not put a matchstick in every position in the grid, leaving a small number of positions empty, perhaps on the order of 10%. Third, we will restrict a player's moves to removing matchsticks with no intervening holes. That is, a player can remove the n+1 matchsticks in row r located in columns c through c+n only if a matchstick is present in each of those locations. And finally, we will play two versions of the game, one where the player taking the last one wins the game.

The prototype for the code you should write is:

```
void InitMatchsticks(
  short dimension.
     /* game is played on a square board of size dimension x dimension */
  const char *board
     /* board[row*dimension + col] is board cell (row,col) */
     /* board[]==1 represents a matchstick, ==0 represents an empty cell */
  bool playFirst
     /* true if you will play first in this game */
  bool lastMatchstickLoses,
     /" true if taking the last matchstick loses the game,
        false if taking the last one wins the game */
     /* identifier for your opponent in this game */
void OpponentMove(
  bool playingRow
     /* true if opponent played along a row, false if along a column */
   short rowOrColumnNumber
     /* number of the (origin zero) row (playingRow==true) or
        column (playingRow==false)
       that the opponent played */
   short startingColOrRow,
   short endingColOrRow,
     /* if playingRow==true, the opponent played from
           (row,col)==(rowOrColumnNumber,startingColOrRow)
       to (row,col)==(rowOrColumnNumber,endingColOrRow)
       if playingRow==false, the opponent played from
           (row,col)==(startingColOrRow,rowOrColumnNumber)
       to (row,col)==(endingColOrRow,rowOrColumnNumber)
  const char *board
     /* board after your opponent's move */
const char *YourMove(
   bool *playingRow.
     /* true if you played along a row, false if along a column */
```

The objective of the Challenge is to win as many games as possible against your fellow contestants, while expending as little execution time as possible. Each game begins with a call to your InitMatchsticks routine, where you are given the dimension of the game, the initial board configuration, the identity of your opponent, whether or not you playFirst, and whether the objective is to take or not take the last matchstick (lastMatchstickLoses). When it is your turn to move, your YourMove routine describes the move you are making (playingRow, rowOrColumnNumber, startingColOrRow, endingColOrRow) and returns a pointer to your view of what the board looks like after your move. When your opponent moves, your OpponentMove routine is provided with a description of the opponent's move, and the board configuration after that move.

The Challenge will be scored as a round robin tournament, or another fair scheduling mechanism. Each player will play first and play second against each scheduled opponent an equal number of times for each test case. Each player will play to win by taking the last matchstick, and play to win by making the opponent take the last matchstick, an equal number of times against each scheduled opponent for each test case. A player's score will be dimension^2 points for each win, minus a penalty of 10 points per millisecond of execution time. You can earn a bonus of up to 25% of your score based on a subjective evaluation of the clarity of your code and commentary.

This will be a native PowerPC Carbon Challenge, using the Metrowerks CodeWarrior Pro 7.0 development environment. Please be certain that your code is carbonized, as I may evaluate this Challenge using Mac OS X. Unfortunately, this Challenge cannot accommodate alternative development environments, because pairs of solutions need to compete against one another in a single executable.

WINNER OF THE MARCH, 2002 CHALLENGE

The March Challenge required contestants to solve the Megaminx, a twelve-sided puzzle in the shape of a dodecahedron. Each of the twelve faces of the Megaminx can be rotated clockwise or counter-clockwise, with five consecutive rotations of a face in the same direction bringing the face back to its original position. Each face is divided into eleven facelets, five corner facelets that each



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border three faces, five edge facelets that each border two faces, and one center facelet. The faces are colored with six colors, opposite faces sharing the same color. The input for the Challenge was a sequence of files that each described a scrambled Megaminx, and the required output was a sequence of rotations that solved the puzzle. Scoring was based on the execution time required to solve the scrambled puzzles. Contestants earned up to a 25% reduction in their time if they also displayed the puzzle solution.

Two contestants, Ernst Munter and Allen Stenger, submitted solutions for this Challenge. Both contestants acknowledge the information provided at two Megaminx web sites, one provided by Meffert's Puzzles at http://www.meffertspuzzles.com/puzzles/megasol1.html, and another by W. D. Joyner. Ernst used the approach described in http://web.usna.navy.mil/~wdj/megam.htm, one that solved the problem quickly, but generated solutions with a large number of moves. Ernst first moved the corner pieces to the proper positions, then moved the edge pieces to the proper positions, then oriented the corners, then oriented the edges. Allen took the nine-step approach described at the Meffert site, augmented with a modification from http://web.usna.navy.mil/~wdj/megaminx.htm, an approach that generated shorter move sequences, but took more execution time.

Both contestants provided display options in their entries. Ernst's program has a compile-time option to generate a two-dimensional depiction of the Megaminx as the solution is generated. He included an option to display macro moves in a single step, which made it easier to see what was going on. Allen's entry has a separate program, written in Cocoa and using OpenGL to display a three-dimensional Megaminx. Allen included options to read in a puzzle description file and a sequence of moves, controls to rotate the viewpoint, and controls to rotate a slice of the puzzle.

By the stated rules of this contest, the solution requiring the least amount of execution time, after considering the display bonus, is the winner. Congratulations to **Ernst Munter** (Kanata, ON, Canada) for winning the Megaminx Challenge. I am taking the somewhat unusual step, however, of providing both solutions in the online archive, and printing the better-commented solution by **Allen Stenger** in this article.

The table below lists, for each of the solutions submitted, the total execution time in microseconds, the time reduction awarded for providing a display option, the net penalty points after subtracting the bonus from the execution time, and the cumulative number of moves required to solve the ten test cases used to evaluate solutions. It also lists the programming language of each entry. As usual, the number in parentheses after the entrant's name is the total number of Challenge points earned in all Challenges prior to this one.

Name	Exec. Time (microsecs)	Display Bonus	Penalty Points	Moves	Language
Ernst Munter (275)	37331	25%	27998	15030	C++
Allen Stenger (39)	347335	25%	260501	6440	C++/ObjC

TOP CONTESTANTS ...

Listed here are the Top Contestants for the Programmer's Challenge, including everyone who has accumulated 20 or more points during the past two years. The numbers below include points awarded over the 24 most recent contests, including points earned by this month's entrants.

Rank	Name	Points	Wins	Total
		(24 mo)	(24 mo)	Points
1.	Munter, Ernst	275	10	862
2.	Saxton, Tom	52	1	210
3.	Stenger, Allen	49	1	114
4.	Rieken, Willeke	46	2	134
5.	Wihlborg, Claes	40	2	49
6.	Taylor, Jonathan	37	1	63
9.	Gregg, Xan	20	1	140
10.	Mallett, Jeff	20	1	114
11.	Cooper, Tony	20	1	20

... AND THE TOP CONTESTANTS LOOKING FOR A RECENT WIN

In order to give some recognition to other participants in the Challenge, we also list the high scores for contestants who have accumulated points without taking first place in a Challenge during the past two years. Listed here are all of those contestants who have accumulated 6 or more points during the past two years.

Rank	Name	Points	Total	
		(24 mo)	Points	
7.	Sadetsky, Gregory	22	24	
8.	Boring, Randy	21	144	
13.	Schotsman, Jan	16	16	
14.	Shearer, Rob	15	62	
15.	Hart, Alan	14	39	
16.	Nepsund, Ronald	10	57	
17.	Day, Mark	10	30	
18.	Desch, Noah	10	10	
19.	Flowers, Sue	10	10	
20.	Maurer, Sebastian	7	108	
21.	Leshner, Will	7	7	
22.	Miller, Mike	7	7	

There are three ways to earn points: (1) scoring in the top 5 of any Challenge, (2) being the first person to find a bug in a published winning solution or, (3) being the first person to suggest a Challenge that I use. The points you can win are:

1st place	20 points
2nd place	10 points
3rd place	7 points
4th place	4 points
5th place	2 points
finding bug	2 points
suggesting Challenge	2 points

Here is Allen's Megaminx solution:

```
CSolver.cpp
// Megaminx (MacTech Programmer's Challenge, March 2002)
// Written by Allen Stenger, March 2002
// Conceptually we rotate colors rather than faces; this simplifies the problem of
// determining the orientation of each edge and corner piece.
// We follow the solution given by Meffert's Puzzles and Novelties;
// see http://www.mefferts-puzzles.com/puzzles/megasol1.html
// Terminology: corner piece is at a vertex of the Megaminx and has three facelets,
// edge piece is at an edge between two faces and has two facelets. The smaller
// pentagons in the center of each face never move away from the face and so we
// ignore them.
// A vertex can be specified by its vertex number, however edges don't have numbers
// and are usually specified by the two faces they lie on. There is a variety of constant
// tables for walking through the faces.
// COLOR AMBIGUITY
// Because the same colors are used for two faces, it appears that there might be some
// ambiguity in the pieces; that is, radially-opposite corners have the same colors, and
// and radially-opposite edges have the same colors,so how do we know whether to
// place a corner or edge in the Northern or Southern part of the Megaminx?
// *The corners are actually not ambiguous because the orientations
  are different; so for example there are two corners with
   colors 1,2,3, but the one on the North Pole has the colors
   1,2,3 in clockwise order and the one on the South Pole has
   1,2,3 in counter-clockwise order. Therefore we can always
  tell from the corner which part of the Megaminx it goes in.
  *The edges really are ambiguous. It is not necessary to put
  each edge back in its original place, but in some situations
   we would get to Step 8 and be unable to orient the South
   Pole edges because of an earlier placement we made. To solve
   the Megaminx we must follow some parity rules; see
      Coreyanne Rickwalt, "The Fundamental Theorem of the
      Megaminx", http://web.usna.navy.mil/~wdj/megaminx.htm.
   We will detect the problem case in Step 6 and take evasive action.
// A simple example of the problem is a Megaminx that is solved except
// for the two edges:
   8,7,3
9,7,2
//This one cannot be solved by the published Meffert method because
// the South Pole edges are not correctly placed in Step 8.
#include "CSolver.h"
#include "CMegaminx.h"
#include "CMegaminxApp.h"
#include (cassert)
#include (sstream)
// some fixed faces we use
const int kSouthPoleFace = 7:
CSolver:: CSolver(CMegaminx& rMega) :
fMega(rMega)
CSolver::~CSolver()
void CSolver::Solve()
  // call all the solution steps
```

```
Step3():
  Step4():
  Step5():
  Step6();
  Step7():
  Step8():
  Step9();
  Step10():
  Step11();
void CSolver::DoLUU(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace,
CMegaminx::face_t rightFace)
  fMega.WriteComment("DoLUU"):
  fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
void CSolver::DoRUU(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace,
CMegaminx::face_t rightFace)
  fMega.WriteComment("DoRUU");
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
void CSolver::DoRLL(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace,
CMegaminx::face_t rightFace)
  fMega.WriteComment("DoRLL"):
  fMega.Slice(rightFace. CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
fMega.Slice(leftFace. CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
```



```
void CSolver::DoLLL(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace,
CMegaminx::face_t rightFace)
  fMega.WriteComment("DoLLL");
  fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
fMega.Slice(leftFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
  fMega.Slice(rightFace, CMegaminx::eCW. 1);
void CSolver:: VisitAllCorners (CCornerVisitor &aVisitor)
  for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumVertices; i++)
aVisitor.VisitCorner(i);</pre>
bool CSolver::CheckEdgeParity()
  // this holds the permutation of the South edges. It is
  // in two 5-edge pieces:
  // 0-4: South Equator edges, indexed same as SouthEqEdge arrays
  // 5-9: South Pole edges, indexed same as SoutPoleEdge arrays + 5
  // The entries are also these indices; perm[i] contains the edge
  // index that edge i will go to when the Megaminx becomes solved.
  // Therefore the entries in perm are the numbers 0-9 in some
  // permuted order.
  int perm[10];
  for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
     perm[i] = 0:
  // South Equator edges
   for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges; i++)
     CMegaminx::color_t c0 =
  fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(fMega.kSouthEqEdgeL[i],
                     fMega.kSouthEqEdgeR[i]);
     CMegaminx::color_t cl =
        fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(fMega.kSouthEqEdgeR[i].
                     fMega.kSouthEqEdgeL[i]);
     perm[i] = ParityLookup(c0, c1);
  // South Pole edges
   for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges; i++)
     CMegaminx::color_t c0 =
        CMegaminx::color_t c1 =
  fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(fMega.kSouthPoleEdgeS[i].
                     fMega.kSouthPoleEdgeN[i]);
     perm[i + 5] = ParityLookup(c0, c1):
   // Now figure out the parity of perm
   bool bVisitedPerm[10];
        // indexed same as perm; whether we
        // have counted that transition
   int cycleLengths = 0: // sum of (cycle length - 1)
   for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
   bVisitedPerm[i] = false;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
     if (bVisitedPerm[i])
        continue:
     // follow the cycle starting at perm[i]
     int next = i;
while (!bVisitedPerm[next])
        cycleLengths++;
        bVisitedPerm[next] = true;
       next = perm[next];
     cycleLengths --:
  bool bEvenParity = ((cycleLengths & 1) == 0);
  return bEvenParity;
```

```
// look up the correct Southern edge for these colors; returns
// index into SouthEq table, or index + 5 into SouthPole table
int CSolver::ParityLookup(CMegaminx::color_t c0.
CMegaminx::color_t cl)
  for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges; i++)
     CMegaminx::color_t trialColor0 =
       CMegaminx::CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[i]);
     CMegaminx::color_t trialColor1 =
     CMegaminx::CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[i]); if ((c0 == trialColor0 && c1 == trialColor1) ||
       (c1 == trialColor0 && c0 == trialColor1))
       return 1:
  for (int i = 0: i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges: i++)
     CMegaminx::color_t trialColor0 =
       CMegaminx::CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i]):
     CMegaminx::color_t trialColor1 =
       CMegaminx::CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeS[i]):
     if ((c0 == trialColor0 && c1 == trialColor1) ||
       (c1 == trialColor0 && c0 == trialColor1))
       return i + 5:
  assert(false); // trouble, no match
  return 0:
#pragma mark === Solution Steps ===
// Solution Steps
void CSolver::Step3()
  Step3Edges();
  Step3Corners():
  Step3Verify():
void CSolver::Step3Edges()
   for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumNorthPoleEdges; i++)
CMegaminx::face_t destFaceN =
CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeN[i];
     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceS =
CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeS[i]
     if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(destFaceN, destFaceS))
       continue; // already done!
     // if not the correct colors, find an edge that does have
     // the correct colors and drop it to the South Pole.
     // the return value is the South Equatorial face where
     // it got dropped.
     CMegaminx::color_t c0 = fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceN);
CMegaminx::color_t c1 = fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceS);
     CMegaminx::face_t southPoleFace = Step3_4Drop(c0, c1):
     // now loft it back to the North Pole; first rotate
     // the South Pole so the edge touches the "down right" face.
     CMegaminx::face_t rotToFace '
          CMegaminx::kFaceDownRight[destFaceS];
     int dist = Distance(southPoleFace, rotToFace);
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, dist);
     fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 2):
     fMega.Slice(destFaceS, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2):
     // if the edge is not correctly oriented we need
     // to reorient it
     if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(destFaceN, destFaceS) != 1)
       fMega.Slice(destFaceS, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
       int nextSouthFace = fMega.NextSouthEqFace(rotToFace);
       fMega.Slice(nextSouthFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
        fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1),
        fMega.Slice(destFaceS. CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
```

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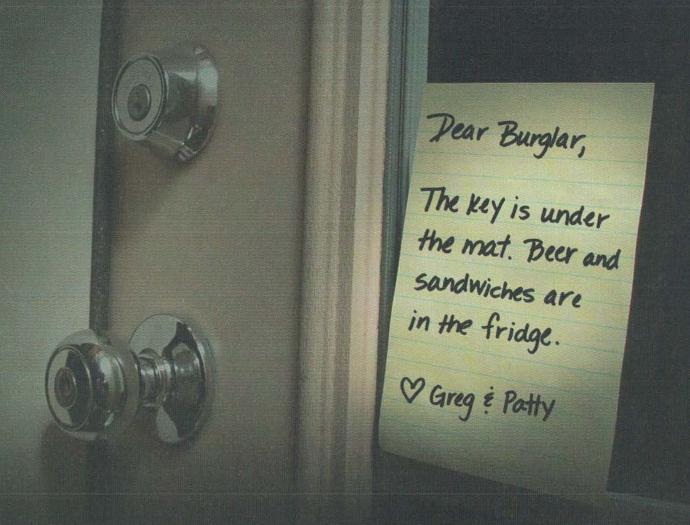


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```
// returns face we dropped it to
CMegaminx::face_t CSolver::Step3_4Drop(CMegaminx::color_t c0,
                CMegaminx::color_t cl)
  fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop");
  // search the lower edges for one having these colors
  // (in either order), and if found move it to
  // the South Pole.
  bool bFound = false;
  CMegaminx::face_t southPoleFace = 0:
         // edge dropped to this face-SouthPole
  // search the South Pole edges, and if found we are done!
  if (!bFound)
     for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges &&
!bFound:
       CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceN =
              CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i];
       CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceS =
              CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeS[i];
       if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(trialFaceN, trialFaceS, cO.
c1))
         fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop found on South
Pole"):
         bFound = true;
         southPoleFace = trialFaceN;
  // search the South Equator edges, and if found drop
  // the edge to the South Pole by rotating its left face
  // CW 1
  if (!bFound)
     for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges &&
1bFound;
       CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceL =
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[i];
       CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceR =
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[i];
       if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(trialFaceL, trialFaceR, c0.
         fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop found on South
Equator");
         bFound = true;
         fMega.Slice(trialFaceL, CMegaminx::eCW, 1):
         southPoleFace = trialFaceL;
  // search the Middle Equator edges, and if found drop
  // the edge to the South Pole by rotating its S face
  // either CW 2 or CCW 2
  if (!bFound)
    for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumMiddleEqEdges &&
!bFound:
                   i++)
       CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceN =
CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeS[i];
       if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(trialFaceN, trialFaceS, c0.
         fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop found on Middle
Equator");
```

```
bFound = true;
          southPoleFace = trialFaceS:
          // even indices are below and right of N face,
          // therefore above and left of S face
          if ((i & 1) == 0)
             // above and left, so use CCW 2
             fMega.Slice(trialFaceS, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
          else
             // above and right, so use CW 2
             fMega.Slice(trialFaceS, CMegaminx::eCW, 2);
    1
  // search the North Equator edges, and if found there drop to the
  // South Pole. The Meffert solution uses a simple transformation
  // in case 3 and a complicated one in case 4 (where it has to avoid
  // disturbing other North Equator edges), but we will use the
  // complicated one in both cases because the implementation
  // is easier.
  if (!bFound)
     for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumNorthEqEdges; i++)
        CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceL =
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeL[i];
        CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceR =
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeR[i];
       if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(trialFaceL, trialFaceR, c0,
          fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop found on North
Equator"):
          bFound = true;
          // drop to down left
          southPoleFace
CMegaminx::kFaceDownLeft[trialFaceL];
          fMega.Slice(southPoleFace. CMegaminx::eCounterCW,
          DoLUU(trialFaceL, trialFaceR):
          DoLUU(trialFaceL, trialFaceR):
          fMega.Slice(southPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
          DoRUU(trialFaceL. trialFaceR):
          DoRUU(trialFaceL, trialFaceR):
          // at this point the edge is at the upper left of 
// southPoleFace, so rotate it to put it on the
          // South Pole
          fMega.Slice(southPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW.
2);
  // search the North Pole edges, and if found drop to the
  // South Pole. (This code should only be execute for Step 3,
  // because in Step 4 the North Pole edges have already been
  // set and we should have found the desired edge before now.)
  if (!bFound)
     for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumNorthPoleEdges: i++)
        CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceN =
             CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeN[i];
        CMegaminx::face_t trialFaceS
             CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeS[i];
        if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(trialFaceN, trialFaceS, c0,
c1))
          fMega.WriteComment("Step3_4Drop found on North
Pole");
          bFound = true:
          southPoleFace =
CMegaminx::kFaceDownRight[trialFaceS];
          fMega.Slice(trialFaceS, CMegaminx::eCW, 2);
```



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```
fMega.Slice(southPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW,
2);
  assert (bFound):
  return southPoleFace:
void CSolver::Step3Corners()
  // maybe corner is already done!
    if (fMega.IsCornerCorrect(destCorner))
       continue;
    fMega.WriteComment("Step3Corners");
    // find the corner that should be here, and drop
    // it to the South Pole and move it into place.
    CMegaminx::color_t destc0
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destCorner][0]);
    CMegaminx::color_t destc1 =
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destCorner][1]);
    CMegaminx::color_t destc2 =
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destCorner][2]):
     CMegaminx::vertex_t srcCorner
       fMega.CornerHavingColors(destc0, destc1, destc2);
    // special transformation if the src is at the
    // North Pole
     if (fMega.IsNorthPoleVertex(srcCorner))
       fMega.WriteComment("Step3Corners drop North Pole
corner") .
       CMegaminx::face_t faceL =
                   CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[srcCorner][1]:
       CMegaminx::face_t faceR =
                   CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[srcCorner][2];
       DoRUU(faceL, faceR):
       srcCorner += 5; // corner has dropped to North Equator
    // drop the corner to the South Pole (if it is not
    // already there)
     if (fMega.IsNorthEquatorVertex(srcCorner))
       fMega.Slice(CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[srcCorner].
                CMegaminx::eCW, 2):
       srcCorner += 10; // corner has dropped to South Pole
     else if (fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(srcCorner))
       fMega.Slice(CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[srcCorner].
                CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
       srcCorner += 5:
    // rotate the vertex into place
    int moveToCorner = destCorner + 15;
     int dist = Distance(srcCorner, moveToCorner):
    fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, dist);
    // lift the vertex into place on the North Equator
     int bottomFace = CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[destCorner + 5];
     fMega.Slice(bottomFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
    // figure out the orientation and apply the correct
    // transformation to lift it to the North Pole
    CMegaminx::face_t leftFace
                CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[destCorner];
    CMegaminx::face_t rightFace =
                CMegaminx::PrevNorthEqFace(leftFace);
    if (fMega.CornerFaceletColor(leftFace, rightFace,
bottomFace)
                   == 1)
```

```
// top color at left
       // NOTE: Meffert solution wrongly states to use
       // LUU in this case.
       DoRUU(leftFace, rightFace);
     else if (fMega.CornerFaceletColor(rightFace, leftFace,
                  bottomFace) == 1)
       // top color at right
       DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace);
     else
       // top color at bottom
       DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace):
       DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace);
       DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace);
  1
1
// Step 4. Setting the northern equatorial edges
// Very similar to Step 3 edge case; the common 3_4 routine does
// most of the work.
void CSolver::Step4()
  for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumNorthEqEdges; i++)
     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceL =
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeL[i];
     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceR =
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeR[i];
    if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(destFaceL, destFaceR))
        continue: // already done!
     // if not the correct colors, find an edge that does have
     // the correct colors and drop it to the South Pole.
     // the return value is the South Equatorial face where
     // it got dropped.
     CMegaminx::color_t c0 = fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceL);
CMegaminx::color_t c1 = fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceR);
     CMegaminx::face_t southPoleFace = Step3_4Drop(c0, c1);
     // now loft it back to the North Equator
     // figure the face we want to be under, and
     // rotate the South Pole to get there. The
     // desired face lies directly underneath the
     // desired edge, and therefore below and left of
     // the destfaceR.
     CMegaminx::face_t rotToFace =
    CMegaminx::kFaceDownLeft[destFaceR];
     int dist = Distance(southPoleFace, rotToFace);
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, dist);
     // rotate rotToFace either CW 2 or CCW 2 to bring
     // the edge adjacent faceL or faceR; we pick the
     // rotation so that the facelet on the face
     // has the face color. This facelet is currently
     // on the South Pole face.
     // Finally we'll move it into the correct edge.
     // We combine the CW 2 and CCW 1 to get CW 1, and
     // similarly.
     int faceletColor = fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace,
     rotToFace);
if (faceletColor == destFaceL)
        fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
                                                                // = CW 2
and CCW 1
        DoLUU(destFaceL, destFaceR);
        DoLUU(destFaceL, destFaceR);
        fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
        DoRUU(destFaceL, destFaceR):
DoRUU(destFaceL, destFaceR):
     else
        fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
             // = CCW 2 and CW 1
        DoRUU(destFaceL, destFaceR):
```

```
fMega.Slice(rotToFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
       DoLUU(destFaceL, destFaceR);
       DoLUU(destFaceL, destFaceR):
  Step4Verify():
// Step 5. Setting the northern equatorial corners
// We step through the vertices, finding the correctly-oriented
// corner that belongs there. To transfer the corner, drop it to
// the South Pole, rotate, then rotate up to the North Equator.
void CSolver::Step5()
  for (int destVertex = CMegaminx::kFirstNorthEqVertex;
       destVertex <= CMegaminx::kLastNorthEqVertex;</pre>
     if (fMega.IsCornerCorrect(destVertex))
       continue; // already OK, skip this one
    // Find the corner whose colors should be moved here. This
    // may be the same corner, if it is not oriented correctly.
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destVertex][0]);
     int cl =
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destVertex][1]);
fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[destVertex][2]);
     int srcVertex = fMega.CornerHavingColors(c0, c1, c2);
if (srcVertex != destVertex)
       Step5PlaceVertex(srcVertex, destVertex):
     Step5OrientVertex(destVertex);
  Step5Verify();
// place and position the srcVertex into the destVertex
void CSolver::Step5PlaceVertex(int srcVertex, int destVertex)
  // drop the src to the South Pole if needed
  int southPoleFromVertex = srcVertex;
  if (fMega.IsNorthEquatorVertex(srcVertex))
     fMega.WriteComment("Step5PlaceVertex from North
     southPoleFromVertex = srcVertex + 10:
     fMega.Slice(CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[srcVertex],
            CMegaminx::eCW, 2);
  else if (fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(srcVertex))
     // moving this vertex also disturbs the North Equator
     // vertex on this face, which might already be correctly
     // placed, so we must rotate the face back after all
     // movements are done. We will handle this by
     // rotating the South Pole face CounterCW by 1 and
     // then reversing the face rotation.
     fMega.WriteComment("Step5PlaceVertex from South
Equator");
     southPoleFromVertex = srcVertex + 5:
     int rot2Face = CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[srcVertex];
     fMega.Slice(rot2Face, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace,CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
     fMega.Slice(rot2Face, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
  // figure where we need to rotate South Pole to, and the
   // face to rotate CounterCW to loft to final position
   fMega.WriteComment("Step5PlaceVertex move vertex into
place"):
   int southPoleToVertex = destVertex + 10:
```

DoRUU(destFaceL, destFaceR):

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```
// rotate the South Pole CW into position
   int dist = Distance(southPoleFromVertex.
southPoleToVertex):
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, dist);
  // raise the src into the dest
   int homeFace = CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[destVertex];
  fMega.Slice(homeFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
void CSolver::Step50rientVertex(int destVertex)
  fMega.WriteComment("Step5OrientVertex");
  // orient the corner, if needed
  // figure the colors of the corner facelets and see if
   // we need to rotate the corner
   CMegaminx::face_t belowFace =
          CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[destVertex]:
CMegaminx::color_t belowColor =
fMega.CorrectColor(belowFace);
     // color of bottom face
  CMegaminx::NextNorthEqFace(rightFace);
   if (fMega.CornerFaceletColor(leftFace, rightFace,
belowFace) ==
                 belowColor)
     fMega.Slice(belowFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 2):
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
     fMega.Slice(belowFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 2);
  else if (fMega.CornerFaceletColor(rightFace, belowFace, leftFace) == belowColor)
     fMega.Slice(belowFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
     fMega.Slice(belowFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2):
// Step 6. Setting the middle equatorial edges
// We step through the middle equatorial edges, checking to see if
// each already has the correctly positioned and placed edge, and if
// not then searching the South Pole edges, the South Equatorial
// edges, and finally the middle equatorial edges (after this one)
// for the needed edge. Note that each combination of colors has
// two edges with this combination, and (I think) they are
// interchangeable; this is unlike the situation for corners, where
// there are also two corners with a given combination, but they
// have opposite orientations and are not interchangeable.
void CSolver::Step6()
   for (int destFaceIndex = 0;
        destFaceIndex < CMegaminx::kNumMiddleEqEdges:
destFaceIndex++)</pre>
     CMegaminx::face_t faceS =
                CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeS[destFaceIndex]:
     CMegaminx::face_t faceN =
     CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeN[destFaceIndex];
if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(faceS, faceN))
        continue: // already correctly placed and positioned
     CMegaminx::color_t neededColorS =
fMega.CorrectColor(faceS):
     CMegaminx::color_t neededColorN =
fMega.CorrectColor(faceN);
     bool bFound = false:
     // search the polar edges
for (int i = 0;
           i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges && !bFound; i++)
        CMegaminx::face_t searchPoleFace =
                CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i];
        if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(kSouthPoleFace, searchPoleFace,
                     neededColorS, neededColorN))
```

```
bFound = true;
          fMega.WriteComment("Step6 move from South Pole");
          Step6PlacePoleEdge(searchPoleFace, destFaceIndex);
     // search the Southern Equatorial edges
     for (int i = 0;
    i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges && !bFound; i++)</pre>
       CMegaminx::face_t searchEqFaceL =
               CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[i]:
        CMegaminx::face_t searchEqFaceR =
                CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[i];
        if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(searchEqFaceL, searchEqFaceR,
             neededColorS, neededColorN))
          bFound = true;
          fMega.WriteComment("Step6 move from South
Equatorial")
          DoRLL(searchEqFaceR, searchEqFaceL);
          Step6PlacePoleEdge(searchEqFaceR, destFaceIndex);
     // search the (this or later) middle equatorial edges
     // we don't search earlier ones because they are already
     // correctly placed and we don't want to steal from them;
     // we do need to search the edge itself because it might
     // have the correct colors but wrongly placed.
     for (int searchIndex = destFaceIndex;
           searchIndex < CMegaminx::kNumMiddleEqEdges &&
!bFound:
                searchIndex++)
        CMegaminx::face_t mFaceS =
                  CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeS[searchIndex];
        CMegaminx::face_t mFaceN =
                   CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeN[searchIndex];
        if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(mFaceS, mFaceN, neededColorS,
                  neededColorN))
          bFound = true:
           fMega.WriteComment("Step6 move from Middle
Equatorial")
          // lift the found edge, either right or left.
          // Lifting uses the same transformations as
          // dropping, however the lifted edge goes to the
          // adjoining face.
           if ((searchIndex & 1) == 0)
             // even index, so edge is below and to right,
             // and will be lifted to next face
             CMegaminx::face_t nextMFace =
                fMega.NextSouthEgFace(mFaceS);
             DoLUU(mFaceS, nextMFace);
             DoLLL(mFaceS, nextMFace):
DoRUU(mFaceS, nextMFace):
             Step6PlacePoleEdge(nextMFace, destFaceIndex);
          else
             // odd index, so edge is below and to left,
             // and will be lifted to previous face
             CMegaminx::face_t prevFace =
  fMega.PrevSouthEqFace(mFaceS);
             DoRUU(prevFace, mFaceS):
             DoRLL(prevFace, mFaceS);
DoLUU(prevFace, mFaceS);
             Step6PlacePoleEdge(prevFace, destFaceIndex);
     assert(bFound);
  bool bEdgeParityOK = CheckEdgeParity();
  if (!bEdgeParityOK)
     // take evasive action; we will swap two same-colored
     // edges in the equator. This is a transposition, so
     // it should cause the edges in the South half to
```

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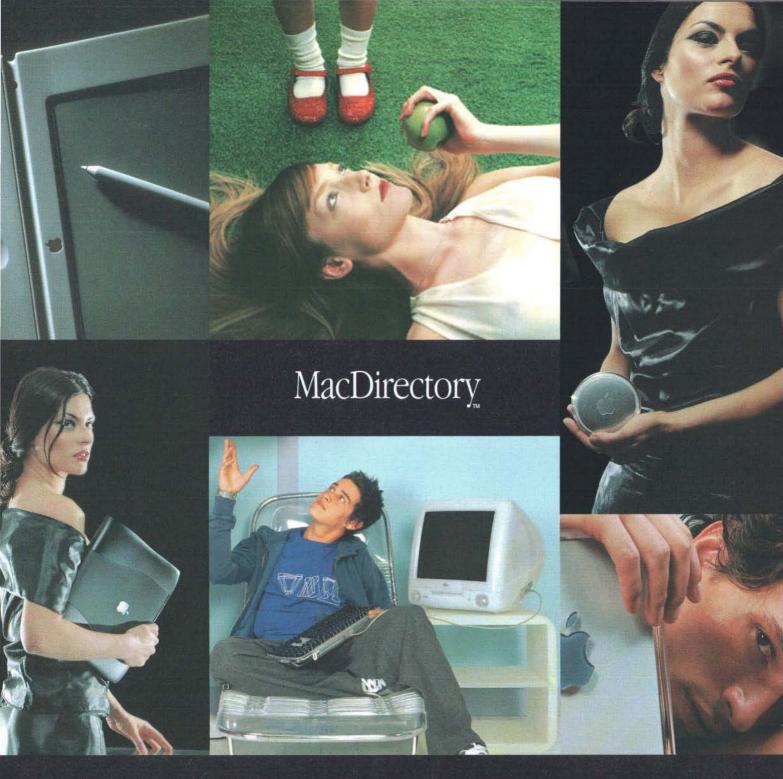
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```
// switch to even parity. We'll somewhat arbitrarily
     // swap the two 2-4 color edges, located at 2-10
     // and 4-8. Just as in earlier Step 6 work we move one
     // edge to the South Pole, place it correctly which
     // moves the other edge to the South Pole, then place
     // that edge.
     fMega.WriteComment("Step6 evasive action to fix
parity")
     DoLUU(10, 11):
                         // move 2-10 to South Pole
     DoLLL(10, 11);
DoRUU(10, 11);
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 2);
     // position
DoRUU(12, 8);
DoRLL(12, 8);
                      // move 2-10 to equator, 4-8 to South Pole
     DoLUU(12. 8):
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 2); // position
     DoLUU(10. 11);
                         // move 4-8 to equator
     DoLLL(10. 11):
     DoRUU(10, 11);
  Step6Verify():
void CSolver::Step6PlacePoleEdge(int fromSFace, int
toEdgeIndex)
  // rotate the edge CounterCW to the correct position
fMega.WriteComment("Step6PlacePoleEdge");
  CMegaminx::face_t toSFace =
               CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeS[toEdgeIndex];
   int dist = Distance(fromSFace, toSFace);
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, dist):
  // flip the edge if it is wrongly oriented
  CMegaminx::face_t nextFace
fMega.NextSouthEqFace(toSFace):
     (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(toSFace, kSouthPoleFace) !=
        fMega.CorrectColor(toSFace))
     fMega.WriteComment("Step6PlacePoleEdge flip edge");
     DoRLL(toSFace, nextFace);
     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
  // now drop it into position, either on left or right
   CMegaminx::face_t prevFace
fMega.PrevSouthEqFace(toSFace):
  if ((toEdgeIndex & 1) == 0)
     // even index, so edge is below and to right
     DoLUU(toSFace, nextFace);
DoLLL(toSFace, nextFace);
     DoRUU(toSFace, nextFace);
  else
     // odd index, so edge is below and to left
     DoRUU(prevFace, toSFace);
     DoRLL(prevFace, toSFace):
     DoLUU(prevFace, toSFace):
// Step 7. Setting the Southern Equatorial Edges
void CSolver::Step7()
  for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges; i++)
     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceL =
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[i];
    CMegaminx::face_t destFaceR
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[i];
     if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(destFaceL, destFaceR))
       continue;
     CMegaminx::color_t destColorL =
fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceL);
     CMegaminx::color_t destColorR =
```

```
fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceR):
     // check to see if needed color is on South Pole
     bool bFound = false; for (int j = 0; j < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges &&
!bFound:
        CMegaminx::face_t srcFaceN =
CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[j];
        CMegaminx::face_t srcFaceS =
CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeS[j];
        if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(srcFaceN. srcFaceS.
destColorL.
                  destColorR))
           bFound = true:
           Step7PlacePoleEdge(srcFaceN, destFaceL, destFaceR):
     // check if needed color is on South Equator; do not
     // check already-placed edges
        for (int j = i; j < CMegaminx::kNumSouthEqEdges &&
!bFound:
           int srcFaceL = CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[j];
int srcFaceR = CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[j];
           if (fMega.EdgeHasColors(srcFaceL, srcFaceR,
destColorL.
                  destColorR))
             // loft the edge using RLL, so it goes above srcFaceR,
             // then move to correct place (remember that we are
             // looking at the Megaminx upside down, so the
             // left face is srcFaceR)
             bFound = true;
             fMega.WriteComment("Step7 loft edge"):
DoRLL(srcFaceR, srcFaceL):
             Step7PlacePoleEdge(srcFaceR. destFaceL.
destFaceR);
     assert (bFound);
   Step7Verify():
// place an equatorial edge that is currently on the pole;
// eqFace is the equatorial face it is below.
void CSolver::Step7PlacePoleEdge(CMegaminx::face_t srcFaceN.
                     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceL,
                     CMegaminx::face_t destFaceR)
  // find the face it belongs to and rotate it there;
  // find the CW distance we should move; we move it so
  // its equatorial color matches the destination face color. Then
  // lift it into position using RLL or LLL. Remember we measure
  // right and left with the Megaminx right-side up.
   fMega.WriteComment("Step7PlacePoleEdge"):
  CMegaminx::color_t destFaceColor =
   fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(srcFaceN, kSouthPoleFace);
  bool bLiftFromLeft = (destFaceColor = fMega.CorrectColor(destFaceL));
CMegaminx::face_t destFace =
          bLiftFromLeft ? destFaceL : destFaceR;
  int dist = Distance(destFace, srcFaceN);
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, dist);
      (bLiftFromLeft)
     DoRLL(destFaceR, destFaceL):
     DoLLL(destFaceR. destFaceL):
// Step 8. Setting the South Pole edges
//This step both positions and orients the South Pole edges.
```



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```
// We pick a fixed orientation to make the rotation calculations easy
//The parked edge in on faces 8 and 9, and we rotate it for lofting
// to be on faces 7 and 8, so we'll use LLL to loft it.
// The reference edge is on faces 7 and 10, the second edge is on faces
// 7 and 11, and the third edge is on faces 7 and 12.
// NOTE: All edge operations must be be done using the fixed
// edge 8-9, otherwise things won't be properly aligned
// after setting the first 3 edges.
// We don't have to return the South Pole after each move.
void CSolver::Step8()
   Step8ReferenceEdge():
   Step8SecondEdge();
   Step8ThirdEdge();
   Step8RestoreEquator();
   Step80rientFourFive();
   Step8Verify():
void CSolver::Step8ReferenceEdge()
   if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(7, 10))
     return: // already correct, no action needed
   fMega.WriteComment("Step8ReferenceEdge");
   // place and orient the reference edge
   // locate the correctly colored edge
   bool bFound = false;
   CMegaminx::face_t srcFace = 0;
   for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges &&
!bFound:
      srcFace = CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i];
      bFound = fMega.EdgeHasColors(srcFace, kSouthPoleFace, 1,
4)
   assert(bFound);
   if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace, srcFace) != 1)
      // need to orient edge
      // first move the edge over to flipping area, at face 9
      int dist = Distance(9, srcFace);
      fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, dist):
      // now flip the edge; it will go to face 8
     DoLLL(8, 9):
srcFace = 8: // pretend it was here all along
   // move the edge into position at edge 10
   int dist = Distance(10, srcFace);
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, dist);
void CSolver::Step8SecondEdge()
   if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(7, 11))
     return; // already correct, no action needed
  // place and orient the second edge
   // For this operation we have to return the South Pole face
   // to its original position so that the reference edge will
  // be in place.
   // locate the correct color
   bool bFound = false;
   CMegaminx::face_t srcFace = 0;
   for
       (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges &&
!bFound:
     srcFace = CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i];
     bFound = fMega.EdgeHasColors(srcFace, kSouthPoleFace, 1.
5):
  // if not found, the desired edge is already parked, so
  // skip the parking
```

```
if (bFound)
     // we will loft using faces 8 and 9, so the South Pole
     // face must be rotated to place aFace in one of these
     // positions, but such that the reference edge (face 10)
     // does not go to either; this means our CW rotations must
     // be something other than 1 and 2.
     bool bUseRLL = true;
     int dist = Distance(9, srcFace);
if (dist == 2) // dist == 1 is impossible because that moves 10 to 9
        dist = 3; // rotate to 10 instead
        bUseRLL = false:
     fMega.WriteComment("Step8SecondEdge parking");
        CTempRotate rot1(fMega, kSouthPoleFace, dist.
                  CMegaminx::eCW);
        if (bUseRLL)
                         // park edge 2
          DoRLL(8, 9);
          DoLLL(8, 9);
   // now move the edge from the parked position to the South Pole
   fMega.WriteComment("Step8SecondEdge placing");
     DoRLL(8, 9); // places the edge
     // if the edge is not oriented correctly, re-orient it
     if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace, 8) != 1)
        fMega.WriteComment("Step8SecondEdge re-orienting");
        DoRLL(8, 9);
        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1):
        DoLLL(8, 9):
        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
        DoRLL(8, 9);
void CSolver::Step8ThirdEdge()
   if (fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(7, 12))
     return; // already correct, no action needed
  // place and orient the third edge
  // For this operation we have to return the South Pole face
  // to its original position so that the reference edge will
  // be in place.
  // locate the correct color
  bool bFound = false;
  CMegaminx::face_t srcFace = 0:
   for (int i = 0; i < CMegaminx::kNumSouthPoleEdges &&
!bFound:
     srcFace = CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[i];
     bFound = fMega.EdgeHasColors(srcFace, kSouthPoleFace, 1,
6);
  // if not found, the desired edge is already parked, so
  // skip the parking
  if (bFound)
     // we will loft using faces 8 and 9, so the South Pole
     // face must be rotated to place aFace in one of these
     // positions, but such that the reference edge (face 10)
     // and second edge do not go there either.
     bool bUseRLL = true;
     int dist = 0;
     switch (srcFace)
       case 12:
```

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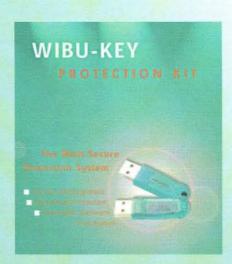
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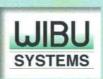


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```
if (b780K && b790K)
          // rotate CounterCW 1 to face 8, use LLL
          dist = 1:
                                                                                        return; // we're done!
          bUseRLL = false:
                                                                                     // if only one is bad, then the equator is also bad, so
                                                                                     // loft it to the pole first
       break:
                                                                                     fMega.WriteComment("Step8OrientFourFive lofting"):
                                                                                     enum Lofting (eNothing = 1, eLLL, eRLL);
Lofting whichLoft = eNothing;
        case 8:
                                                                                     if (b780K && !b790K)
          // already in place on face 8, use LLL
          bUseRLL = false:
                                                                                        whichLoft = eLLL: // loft to left
                                                                                       DoLLL(8, 9);
       break:
                                                                                     else if (!b780K && b790K)
        case 9:
                                                                                        whichLoft = eRLL; // loft to right;
          // already in place on face 9, use RLL
                                                                                       DoRLL(8, 9):
          dist = 0:
          bUseRLL = true;
                                                                                     // now the mis-oriented edges are on the South Pole;
                                                                                     // apply the special operation to re-orient them
fMega.WriteComment("Step8OrientFourFive placing");
for (int i = 1; i <= 4; i++)</pre>
       break:
        default:
                                                                                        DoRLL(8, 9);
          assert(false);
                                                                                        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
       break:
                                                                                     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
                                                                                     for (int i = 1; i <= 4; i++)
     fMega.WriteComment("Step8ThirdEdge parking");
                                                                                        DoRLL(8, 9):
                                                                                        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
        CTempRotate rotl(fMega, kSouthPoleFace, dist,
               CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
        if (bUseRLL)
                                                                                     fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
          DoRLL(8, 9);
        else
                                                                                     // now return the equatorial edge if needed
          DoLLL(8, 9):
                                                                                     // NOTE: we do the operation twice;
                                                                                     // the published Meffert solution incorrectly shows it
                                                                                     // only once.
                                                                                     fMega.WriteComment("Step8OrientFourFive returning
                                                                                   equator");
  // now move the edge from the parked position to the South Pole
  fMega.WriteComment("Step8ThirdEdge placing"):
                                                                                     if (whichLoft == eLLL)
                                                                                        DoLLL(8, 9);
     CTempRotate rot2(fMega, kSouthPoleFace, 1,
                CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
                                                                                       DoLLL(8, 9):
     DoRLL(8, 9); // places the edge
                                                                                     else if (whichLoft == eRLL)
     // if the edge is not oriented correctly, re-orient it
                                                                                        DoRLL(8, 9);
     if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace, 8) != 1)
                                                                                       DoRLL(8, 9);
       DoRLL(8, 9);
        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
        DoLLL(8, 9);
        fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1);
                                                                                  // Step 9. Placing the southern equatorial corners
       DoRLL(8. 9):
                                                                                  // We swap corners to get the southern equatorial corners correctly
                                                                                  // placed. Our basic case is when one corner is on the South Pole
void CSolver::Step8RestoreEquator()
                                                                                  // and one is on the South Equator; we convert the other case
                                                                                  // (both on South Equator) to the first case by lofting one of the
  // figure out which South Pole edge has the equatorial edge
                                                                                  // corners to the South Pole.
  // and restore it to its correct place
                                                                                  void CSolver::Step9()
  fMega.WriteComment("Step8RestoreEquator");
                                                                                     for (CMegaminx::vertex_t dst =
  if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace, 8) != 1 && fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(8, kSouthPoleFace) != 1)
                                                                                  CMegaminx::kFirstSouthEqVertex:
                                                                                          dst <= CMegaminx::kLastSouthEqVertex; dst++)
  DoLLL(8, 9); //7-8 edge should be on equator
else if (fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(kSouthPoleFace, 9) != 1 &&
                                                                                       if (fMega.IsCornerCorrectlyPlaced(dst))
                                                                                          continue; // already OK, so skip
     fMega.EdgeFaceletColor(9, kSouthPoleFace) != 1)
     DoRLL(8, 9); // 7-9 edge should be on equator
                                                                                       // find src, the vertex holding the corner that should be here
                                                                                       // src is either on the South Pole or on the Southern Equator
void CSolver::Step8OrientFourFive()
                                                                                       CMegaminx::color_t c0 =
                                                                                          fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[dst][0]):
                                                                                       CMegaminx::color_t cl
  // according to the Meffert solution, 4 and 5 will have
                                                                                          fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[dst][1]);
  // the correct colors but might be oriented incorrectly.
                                                                                       CMegaminx::color_t c2 =
  // check that they have the correct colors.
  assert(fMega.EdgeHasColors(kSouthPoleFace, 8, 1, 2));
assert(fMega.EdgeHasColors(kSouthPoleFace, 9, 1, 3));
                                                                                          fMega.CorrectColor(CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[dst][2]);
                                                                                       CMegaminx::vertex_t src
  // check that everything is correctly oriented
                                                                                                  fMega.CornerHavingColors(c0, c1, c2);
  bool b780K = fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(kSouthPoleFace, 8);
                                                                                       if (src <= CMegaminx::kLastSouthEqVertex)
  bool b790K = fMega.IsEdgeCorrect(kSouthPoleFace, 9);
                                                                                          // src is on South Equator, so we must loft it
```

1

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```
// to the South Pole
        fMega.WriteComment("Step 9 lofting"):
       CMegaminx::face_t leftFace
          CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[src][2];
       CMegaminx::face_t rightFace =
          CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[src][1];
       DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace):
       DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace);
DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace);
       src += 5; // src is now on the South Pole
     Step9EquatorAndPole(dst, src);
  Step9Verify():
void CSolver::Step9EquatorAndPole(CMegaminx::vertex_t dst,
               CMegaminx::vertex_t src)
  // rotate the South Pole CCW so src is directly above dst;
  // we need to rotate it back when we are finished to avoid disturbing
  // the South Pole edges.
  int dist = Distance(dst + 5, src);
fMega.WriteComment("Step9EquatorAndPole rotating pole");
  CTempRotate rotl(fMega, kSouthPoleFace, dist,
          CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
  // now swap the vertices
  fMega.WriteComment("Step9EquatorAndPole swapping"):
  CMegaminx::face_t leftFace
CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[dst][2]:
  CMegaminx::face_t rightFace
CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[dst][1]:
  DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace);
  DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace):
  DoRLL(leftFace, rightFace):
// Step 10. Placement Of the South Pole corners
void CSolver::Step10()
  for (CMegaminx::vertex_t destCorner =
CMegaminx::kFirstSouthPoleVertex:
       destCorner <= CMegaminx::kLastSouthPoleVertex;</pre>
destCorner++)
     if (fMega.IsCornerCorrectlyPlaced(destCorner))
       continue:
    // find the corner that belongs here; do not check
    // already-placed corners. Do not check the srcCorner
     // because we already know it is not correctly placed
    // (we don't do orientation until Step 11).
     bool bFound = false;
     for (CMegaminx::vertex_t srcCorner = destCorner + 1;
         srcCorner <= CMegaminx::kLastSouthPoleVertex &&
!bFound:
               srcCorner++)
       if (destCorner ==
fMega.CorrectSouthernVertex(srcCorner))
         bFound = true;
          // now move everybody; we alway rotate to vertex 15,
          // and the left and right faces are 12 and 8.
          // We use two blocks so the CTempRotate destructors will
          // rotate back to the original position in between
          // transformations
          fMega.WriteComment("Step10");
            // swap srcCorner and 10
            CTempRotate rot1(fMega, kSouthPoleFace,
                     srcCorner - 15, CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
            DoRUU(12, 8);
            DoRUU(12, 8);
            DoRUU(12. 8);
            // swap destCorner and srcCorner (which is now in 10)
```

```
CTempRotate rot2(fMega, kSouthPoleFace.
                       destCorner - 15, CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
             DoRUU(12, 8);
             DoRUU(12, 8);
             DoRUU(12, 8):
             // restore 10 to its original position
             CTempRotate rot1(fMega, kSouthPoleFace,
                       srcCorner - 15, CMegaminx::eCounterCW);
             DoRUU(12, 8);
             DoRUU(12, 8);
             DoRUU(12, 8);
     assert (bFound):
  Step10Verify();
// Step 11. Orientation Of the southern equatorial and South Pole corners
// We find pairs of oppositely-oriented corner pieces that are not
// correctly oriented, drop them to the South Pole, then
// swap them and return them to their original position. They
// have to be dropped such that they are next to each other.
// We treat the case "neither on South Pole" as the basic case
// and transform all others to that:
// (1) if both are on the South Pole, we pick two separate faces,
    one holding each corner, and rotate those CCW to drop them
    to the Southern Equatorial belt.
// (2) if one is on the South Pole and one not, we rotate the
    South Pole so that corner is not touched the face the other is
    on, then rotate a face the South Pole corner is on.
class CStep11CornerVisitor : public CCornerVisitor
  CStep11CornerVisitor(CMegaminx& rMega) :
     fMega(rMega),
     fNeedsCounterCWCorner1(-1), fNeedsCounterCWCorner2(-1),
     fNeedsCWCorner1(-1), fNeedsCWCorner2(-1)
  ~CStep11CornerVisitor() [];
  virtual void VisitCorner(int cornerIndex):
  // member variables - these are the vertex indices
  // of corners that need 1 turn CCW or CW to be
  // correctly oriented
  CMegaminx::vertex_t fNeedsCounterCWCornerl;
  CMegaminx::vertex_t fNeedsCounterCWCorner2;
CMegaminx::vertex_t fNeedsCWCorner1;
  CMegaminx::vertex_t fNeedsCWCorner2:
  CMegaminx& fMega;
void CStep11CornerVisitor::VisitCorner(int cornerIndex)
  // maybe we are already done
  if ((fNeedsCounterCWCorner1 >= 0) &&
        (fNeedsCWCorner1 >= 0) )
     return:
  // check whether the corner is correctly oriented,
  // and if not, which direction it should be turned
  // face numbers in CCW order
  CMegaminx::face t f0
CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[cornerIndex][0];
  CMegaminx::face_t fl
CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[cornerIndex][1];
  CMegaminx::face_t f2
CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[cornerIndex][2]:
  // facelet color for facelet on face f0
  CMegaminx::color_t c0 = fMega.CornerFaceletColor(f0, f1,
f2):
```

```
if (c0 == CMegaminx::CorrectColor(f1))
     // should turn CCW
     if (fNeedsCounterCWCorner1 < 0)
       fNeedsCounterCWCorner1 = cornerIndex;
     else if (fNeedsCounterCWCorner2 < 0)
       fNeedsCounterCWCorner2 = cornerIndex:
  else if (c0 == CMegaminx::CorrectColor(f2))
     // should turn CW
     if (fNeedsCWCorner1 ( 0)
       fNeedsCWCorner1 = cornerIndex;
     else if (fNeedsCWCorner2 < 0)
       fNeedsCWCorner2 = cornerIndex;
  // otherwise is correctly oriented, do nothing
void CSolver::Step11()
  // the transformation turns one corner CW and one corner CounterCW,
  // so ideally we would pick corners that need this to be correctly
  // positioned; however if we don't have such a pair we can pick
  // two with the same positioning, and then one will become correctly
  // positioned and one will be switched to the opposite positioning.
  for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) // break out if stuck in loop
     CStep11CornerVisitor aVisitor(fMega):
     VisitAllCorners(aVisitor):
     int vCounterCW = aVisitor.fNeedsCounterCWCorner1;
     int vCW = aVisitor.fNeedsCWCorner1;
     if ((vCounterCW < 0) && (vCW < 0))
    // check that we the ideal pairing, and if not double up
    // on the other orientation
     if (vCounterCW < 0)
       vCounterCW = aVisitor.fNeedsCWCorner2;
    else if (vCW < 0)
vCW = aVisitor.fNeedsCounterCWCorner2;
    assert(vCW >= 0 && vCounterCW >= 0);
```

```
bool bCounterCWIsOnEquator =
          fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(vCounterCW);
     bool bCWIsOnEquator = fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(vCW);
     if (bCounterCWIsOnEquator && bCWIsOnEquator)
        Step11BothEquators(vCounterCW, vCW);
     else
        // pick two non-adjacent faces for dropping the vertices
        // to the South Equator. If one is already on the equator
        // we don't have to move it. If the vertices are directly
        // above each other (one on pole and one on equator), we need
        // to rotate the South Pole first so they can be on
        // non-adjacent faces.
        // first check for possibly needed pole rotation
        int spCount = 0;
if (std::abs(vCounterCW - vCW) == 5)
          // the vertices are above each other, so we'll
          // rotate the pole 1 CCW
          spCount = 1:
          if (!bCounterCWIsOnEquator)
             vCounterCW =
fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(kSouthPoleFace,
               vCounterCW):
             vCW = fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(kSouthPoleFace,
vCW);
       // now do any necessary dropping of vertices to the South Equator
       // check counterCW vertex
        int faceCounterCW = 0, faceCW = 0:
        fMega.FindNonAdjacentSouthFaces(vCounterCW, vCW.
               &faceCounterCW. &faceCW):
        int counterCWCount = 0, cwCount = 0;
        int nextCounterCW = vCounterCW, nextCW = vCW;
```

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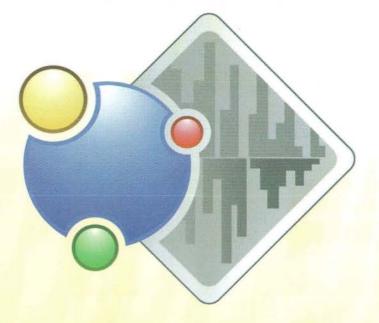
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```
CMegaminx::Direction directionCounterCW =
CMegaminx::eCW,
               directionCW = CMegaminx::eCW;
        if (!bCounterCWIsOnEquator)
          counterCWCount = 1;
nextCounterCW = fMega.NextCWVertex(faceCounterCW,
               vCounterCW);
          directionCounterCW = CMegaminx::eCW;
          if (!fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(nextCounterCW))
             // wrong direction, go in other direction
             nextCounterCW
fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(faceCounterCW,
                vCounterCW):
             directionCounterCW = CMegaminx::eCounterCW;
       // check CW vertex
        if (!bCWIsOnEquator)
          cwCount = 1;
nextCW = fMega.NextCWVertex(faceCW, vCW);
directionCW = CMegaminx::eCW;
          if (!fMega.IsSouthEquatorVertex(nextCW))
             // wrong direction, go in other direction
             nextCW = fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(faceCW, vCW);
directionCW = CMegaminx::eCounterCW;
        fMega.WriteComment("Stepl1 non-equator case");
       CTempRotate rotSouthPole(fMega, kSouthPoleFace,
spCount.
             CMegaminx::eCounterCW):
        C'TempRotate rotCounterCW(fMega. faceCounterCW,
       counterCWCount, directionCounterCW): CTempRotate rotCW(fMega, faceCW, cwCount,
directionCW):
       Step11BothEquators(nextCounterCW, nextCW);
void CSolver::Step11BothEquators(int vCounterCW, int vCW)
  // we will loft the colors of both vertices to the South Pole;
  // need to figure out which direction to rotate their faces,
  // and what rotation is needed for the South Pole to have the
  // lofted corners together.
  // pick two non-adjacent faces for lofting the vertices
  int faceCounterCW, faceCW; // faces to rotate
  fMega.FindNonAdjacentSouthFaces(vCounterCW. vCW.
        &faceCounterCW, &faceCW):
  // figure out the direction to rotate each face, and which vertex
  // the corner will loft to
  // We will position the CCW corner 1 vertex CW of the CW face,
  // and rotate the CW face to put the CW vertex next to the CCW
  // vertex. The right face will then be the CW face.
  CMegaminx::Direction dCounterCW, dCW; // directions to loft
  int loftedCounterCW1, loftedCW1:
  loftedCounterCW1 = fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(faceCounterCW,
        vCounterCW):
  if (fMega.IsSouthPoleVertex(loftedCounterCW1))
     dCounterCW = CMegaminx::eCounterCW;
  else
     // wrong direction, go back in other direction
     dCounterCW = CMegaminx::eCW;
     loftedCounterCW1 = fMega.NextCWVertex(faceCounterCW,
       vCounterCW):
  int cwClicks = 0:
  loftedCW1 = fMega.NextCWVertex(faceCW, vCW);
  if (fMega.IsSouthPoleVertex(loftedCW1))
```

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```
(2, 1, 6, 11, 7),
     dCW = CMegaminx::eCW: // OK, at left edge of face
                                                                                          (1, 0, 5, 10, 6),
(0, 4, 9, 14, 5).
     cwClicks = 1;
                                                                                          14, 3, 8, 13, 9).
   else
                                                                                      // South Pole face
     // wrong direction, go two vertices in other direction
                                                                                          (19, 18, 17, 16, 15).
     dCW = CMegaminx::eCounterCW;
     loftedCWl = fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(faceCW, vCW);
     loftedCW1 = fMega.NextCounterCWVertex(faceCW, loftedCW1);
                                                                                      // Southern Equatorial faces
                                                                                          (19, 15, 10, 5, 14),
(18, 19, 14, 9, 13).
     cwClicks = 2;
                                                                                          (17, 18, 13, 8, 12),
(16, 17, 12, 7, 11),
(15, 16, 11, 6, 10)
   // now figure out the South Pole rotation
   // we want CCW to be on the left of CW
   // as a simplification we will always rotate the South Pole CCW
   int iCounterCW = -1, iCW = -1;
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kCornerFaces[20][3] =
     if (CMegaminx::kFaceVertices[kSouthPoleFace][i] ==
                                                                                       // North Pole
                      loftedCounterCW1)
        iCounterCW = i:
                                                                                       [1, 5, 4],
                                                                                       [1, 4, 3],
     else if (CMegaminx::kFaceVertices[kSouthPoleFace][i] ==
                                                                                       [1, 3, 2],
                      loftedCW1)
        iCW = i;
                                                                                        [1, 2, 6],
                                                                                       (1, 6, 5).
   int distToRotate = (iCW - 1) - iCounterCW;
if (distToRotate < 0)</pre>
                                                                                       // Northern Equatorial
     distToRotate += 5:
                                                                                       (4. 5. 8).
(3. 4. 12).
   if (distToRotate >= 5)
     distToRotate -= 5:
                                                                                       (2. 3, 11).
                                                                                       12. 10. 61.
                                                                                       15. 6. 91.
  // OK, now we are ready to rotate everything!
   int rightFace = faceCW:
int leftFace = faceCW - 1;
                                                                                       // Southern Equatorial
   if (leftFace <= kSouthPoleFace)
leftFace += 5;
                                                                                       [4, 8, 12].
                                                                                       (3, 12, 11).
(2, 11, 10).
(6, 10, 9).
   // rotate the corners into place
                                                                                       15. 9. 81.
   fMega.WriteComment("Step11BothEquators lofting");
   CTempRotate loftCounterCW(fMega, faceCounterCW, 1.
                                                                                       // South Pole
dCounterCW);
   CTempRotate southPoleRotate(fMega, kSouthPoleFace,
                                                                                       (7. 12. 8).
                                                                                       [7, 11, 12],
[7, 10, 11],
           distToRotate. CMegaminx::eCounterCW):
   CTempRotate loftCW(fMega. faceCW. cwClicks. dCW);
                                                                                       [7. 9, 10],
                                                                                       [7, 8, 9]
   // do the corner swap
  fMega.WriteComment("Step11BothEquators corner swap");
DoRUU(leftFace, rightFace);
                                                                                    // list of adjacent face numbers, indexed by face number.
   DoRUU(leftFace. rightFace):
                                                                                    // each item lists the faces adjacent to this one,
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCounterCW, 1):
   DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace):
                                                                                    // in counterclockwise order as viewed from above this face.
                                                                                    //This list must be coordinated with the vertex list so that
   DoLUU(leftFace, rightFace);
                                                                                    // face[1] touches vertices [0] and [1].
   fMega.Slice(kSouthPoleFace, CMegaminx::eCW, 1);
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kAdjacentFaces[13][5] =
#pragma mark === Verification Routines ===
                                                                                       (0, 0, 0, 0, 0), // dummy for face 0
// Verification Routines
                                                                                          (4, 3, 2, 6, 5),
                                                                                          (1, 3, 11, 10, 6).
(1. 4. 12, 11, 2).
(1. 5. 8. 12, 3).
(1. 6. 9. 8. 4).
// see online code archive
CMegaminxApp.cpp
                                                                                          (1, 2, 10, 9, 5),
// see online code archive
CMegaminx.cpp
                                                                                          (9, 10, 11, 12, 8).
                                                                                         [7, 12, 4, 5, 9],
[7, 8, 5, 6, 10],
#include "CMegaminx.h"
#include "CMegaminxApp.h"
                                                                                          [7, 9, 6, 2, 11].
                                                                                         [7, 10, 2, 3, 12],
[7, 11, 3, 4, 8]
#include (cassert)
                                                                                    1:
// initialization of tables
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceBelow[20] =
                                                                                    15. 4. 3. 2. 6. 8. 12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 12. 11. 10. 9. 0. 0. 0.
const CMegaminx::vertex_t CMegaminx::kFaceVertices[13][5] =
                                                                                    0. 01;
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceAbove[20] = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 6, 5, 12, 11, 10, 9,
  // dummy face for 0
  (0, 0, 0, 0, 0),
  // North Pole face
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceDownRight[13] =
[0, 0, 10, 11, 12, 8, 9, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0);
const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceDownLeft[13] =
     (0, 1, 2, 3, 4).
  // Northern Equatorial faces
                                                                                    (0, 0, 11, 12, 8, 9, 10, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0);
     (3, 2, 7, 12, 8).
                                                                                    const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceUpRight[13] =
                                                                                    (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 5, 6, 2, 3);
```

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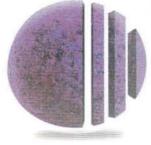
```
const CMegaminx::face_t CMegaminx::kFaceUpLeft[13] =
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 5, 6, 2, 3, 4];
// list of North Pole edges
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                              void CMegaminx::LoadEdgeFacelet(face_t faceNumber1, face_t
CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeN[kNumNorthPoleEdges] =
                                                                             faceNumber2,
(1, 1, 1, 1, 1);
                                                                                              color t colorNumber)
const CMegaminx::face_t
CMegaminx::kNorthPoleEdgeS[kNumNorthPoleEdges] =
                                                                                assert(1 <= faceNumber1 && faceNumber1 <= 12);
12. 3. 4. 5. 61:
                                                                                assert(1 <= faceNumber2 && faceNumber2 <= 12):
// list of North Equator edges.
                                                                                fEdgeFacelets[faceNumber1][faceNumber2] = colorNumber:
const CMegaminx::face_t
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeL[kNumNorthEqEdges] =
12. 3. 4. 5. 61:
                                                                             void CMegaminx::SliceImp(CMegaminx::face_t faceNumber.
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                                       Direction direction)
CMegaminx::kNorthEqEdgeR[kNumNorthEqEdges] =
(6, 2, 3, 4, 5);
                                                                                  short *pFaceletColors1[5], *pFaceletColors2[5],
                                                                                            *pFaceletColors3[5]: // pointers to colors to move, listed
// list of middle equatorial edges. Ordered in two arrays,
                                                                             CCW
// the first giving the south face and the second the corresponding
                                                                                  int i:
// north face. For even indices the edge is below and right of the
// north face, for odd indices it is below and to the left.
                                                                               // rotate the edge facelets
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                                  for (i = 0; i < 5; i++)
CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeN[kNumMiddleEqEdges] = [5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 6, 6, 5];
const CMegaminx::face_t
CMegaminx::kMiddleEqEdgeS[kNumMiddleEqEdges] =
                                                                                       int adj = kAdjacentFaces[faceNumber][i]:
                                                                                       pFaceletColors1[i]
                                                                             &fEdgeFacelets[adj][faceNumber]:
[8, 8, 12, 12, 11, 11, 10, 10, 9, 9];
                                                                                              // adjacent face
                                                                                       pFaceletColors2[i]
// list of Southern Equator edges
                                                                             &fEdgeFacelets[faceNumber][adj];
const CMegaminx::face_
                                                                                              // this face
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeL[kNumSouthEqEdges] =
[8, 9, 10, 11, 12];
                                                                                  RotateFacelets(pFaceletColors1, direction);
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                                  RotateFacelets(pFaceletColors2, direction);
CMegaminx::kSouthEqEdgeR[kNumSouthEqEdges] =
(12, 8, 9, 10, 11):
                                                                               // rotate the corner facelets
                                                                                  for (i = 0: i < 5: i++)
// list of South Pole edges
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                                       int adjRight =
CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeN[kNumSouthPoleEdges] =
                                                                                              kAdjacentFaces[faceNumber][(i == 0) ? 4 : i -
(8, 9, 10, 11, 12);
                                                                             1]:
const CMegaminx::face_t
                                                                                       int adjLeft = kAdjacentFaces[faceNumber][i];
CMegaminx::kSouthPoleEdgeS[kNumSouthPoleEdges] =
                                                                                       int low, high:
(7. 7. 7. 7. 7);
                                                                                       low = (adjRight < adjLeft) ? adjRight : adjLeft;
high = (adjRight > adjLeft) ? adjRight : adjLeft;
pFaceletColors1[i] =
&fCornerFacelets[faceNumber][low][high]:// this face
CMegaminx::CMegaminx(const string& testNumberString)
                                                                                       low = (faceNumber < adjLeft) ? faceNumber : adjLeft;
  // clear all facelets
                                                                                       high = (faceNumber > adjLeft) ? faceNumber :
     std::memset(fEdgeFacelets, 0, sizeof(fEdgeFacelets));
                                                                             adjLeft:
     std::memset(fCornerFacelets, 0, sizeof(fCornerFacelets));
                                                                                       pFaceletColors2[i] =
                                                                                            &fCornerFacelets[adjRight][low][high]; // right
  // open correct rotations file
                                                                             face
  string rotationsName = string("rotations") +
                 testNumberString + ".txt";
                                                                                       low = (faceNumber < adjRight) ? faceNumber :
  fRotationsStream.open(rotationsName.c_str()):
                                                                             adjRight;
  if (!fRotationsStream.is_open())
                                                                                       high = (faceNumber > adjRight) ? faceNumber :
                                                                             adjRight:
     CMegaminxApp::SayFileError(rotationsName);
                                                                                       pFaceletColors3[i] =
     return:
                                                                                            &fCornerFacelets[adjLeft][low][high]: //lcft face
                                                                                  RotateFacelets(pFaceletColors1, direction);
                                                                                  RotateFacelets(pFaceletColors2, direction);
CMegaminx::~CMegaminx()
                                                                                  RotateFacelets(pFaceletColors3, direction):
  fRotationsStream.close();
                                                                               // write out this rotation to the file
                                                                               fRotationsStream << faceNumber << ".";
fRotationsStream << ((direction == eCW) ? '+' : '-');
void CMegaminx::LoadCornerFacelet(face_t faceNumber1, face_t
                                                                               fRotationsStream << std::endl:
faceNumber2.
                 face_t faceNumber3, color_t colorNumber)
                                                                             void CMegaminx::Slice(face_t faceNumber, Direction direction.
  assert(1 <= faceNumber1 && faceNumber1 <= 12):
                                                                                              int clicks)
  assert(1 <= faceNumber2 && faceNumber2 <= 12);
assert(1 <= faceNumber3 && faceNumber3 <= 12);
                                                                               assert(clicks >= 0);
                                                                               for (int i = 0; i < clicks: i++)
  if (faceNumber2 < faceNumber3)
                                                                                  SliceImp(faceNumber, direction);
    fCornerFacelets[faceNumber1] [faceNumber2] [faceNumber3]
       = colorNumber:
  else
                                                                             bool CMegaminx::IsSolved()
    fCornerFacelets[faceNumber1][faceNumber3][faceNumber2]
       = colorNumber:
                                                                               bool bSolved = true:
```

```
for (int i = 1; i <= 12; i++)
    int rightColor = CorrectColor(i):
    for (int j = 1; j <= 12; j++)
       // check edges
       bSolved = bSolved && (fEdgeFacelets[i][j] == 0 || fEdgeFacelets[i][j] == rightColor);
       // check corners
       for (int k = j + 1; k \le 12; k++)
         bSolved = bSolved && (fCornerFacelets[i][j][k] == 0
              fCornerFacelets[i][j][k] == rightColor);
    1
  return bSolved;
void CMegaminx::RotateFacelets(short **ppColor, Direction
direction)
 // rotate a list of 5 facelet colors
 // the pList is an array of 5 pointer to the color entries
 // in either fEdgeFacelets or fCornerFacelets, in counterclockwise
 // order. For CCW direction we shift the array right, and
 // for CW direction we shift it left.
    short saveColor = 0;
    int i:
    if (direction == eCounterCW)
   // shift right
    **(ppColor + 0) = saveColor:
    else
   // shift left
```

```
saveColor = **(ppColor + 0);
          for (i = 0; i < 4; i++)

**(ppColor + i) = **(ppColor + i + 1);
           **(ppColor + 4) = saveColor:
)
bool CMegaminx::IsCornerCorrectlyPlaced(vertex_t vertex)
  // get the actual colors and the correct colors;
  // the item is correctly placed if these lists are
  // rotations of each other.
  int f0, f1, f2;
int actualColors[5];
  int correctColors[3]:
  f0 = kCornerFaces[vertex][0];
  f1 = kCornerFaces[vertex]
  f2 = kCornerFaces[vertex][2];
  actualColors[0] = actualColors[3] =
           CornerFaceletColor(f0, f1, f2);
  actualColors[1] = actualColors[4]
          CornerFaceletColor(f1, f2, f0);
  actualColors[2] = CornerFaceletColor(f2, f0, f1);
correctColors[0] = kCornerFaces[vertex][0];
  correctColors[0] = kCornerFaces[vertex, [1];
correctColors[2] = kCornerFaces[vertex, [2];
if (correctColors[0] > 6)
    correctColors[0] -= 6;
  if (correctColors[1] > 6)
     correctColors[1]
                          -= 6;
  if (correctColors[2] > 6)
     correctColors[2] -= 6;
  bool bHaveMatch = false;
  for (int i = 0; (i < 3) && !bHaveMatch; i++)
     bHaveMatch = true;
     for (int j = 0; j < 3; j++)
        if (actualColors[i+ j] != correctColors[j])
          bHaveMatch = false;
```

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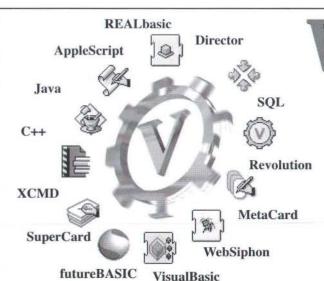


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```
return bHaveMatch;
bool CMegaminx::IsCornerCorrect(vertex_t vertex)
  int f0 = kCornerFaces[vertex][0];
  int f1 = kCornerFaces[vertex]
  int f2 = kCornerFaces[vertex][2];
  bool bOK =
         CornerFaceletColor(f0, f1, f2) == CorrectColor(f0)
88
         CornerFaceletColor(f1, f2, f0) == CorrectColor(f1)
88
          CornerFaceletColor(f2, f0, f1) == CorrectColor(f2);
CMegaminx::vertex_t
     CMegaminx::FacesToVertex(CMegaminx::face_t f0.
         CMegaminx::face_t fl. CMegaminx::face_t f2)
  // find the lowest face number, then search the table of corner faces
  // for a match. It is an error if we don't find a match.
  int holdFace = 0:
   if (f1 < f0)
     holdFace = f0;
     f0 = f1:
     f1 = holdFace;
   if (f2 < f0)
     holdFace = f0:
     f0 = f2:
     f2 = holdFace:
   for (int i = 0; i < 20; i++)
     if (f0 == kCornerFaces[i][0])
       int trialFacel = kCornerFaces[i][1]:
       int trialFace2 = kCornerFaces[i][2];
if ((f1 == trialFace1 && f2 == trialFace2) ||
           (f1 == trialFace2 && f2 == trialFace1))
```

```
// trouble, did not find a match
  ::SysBeep(1);
  assert (false):
  return 0:
CMegaminx::vertex_t
CMegaminx::CorrectSouthernVertex(CMegaminx::vertex_t vertex)
  // find where v1 should be;
  // first read out its current colors, then
  // figure its correct faces
  int oldf0, oldf1, oldf2; // old face numbers
  int c0, c1, c2;
                                    // corresponding current colors
  int newf0, newf1, newf2; // new face numbers
  oldf0 = kCornerFaces[vertex][0]
  oldf1 = kCornerFaces[vertex]
  oldf2 = kCornerFaces[vertex][2];
  c0 = CornerFaceletColor(oldf0, oldf1, oldf2);
  c1 = CornerFaceletColor(oldf1, oldf2, oldf0);
  c2 = CornerFaceletColor( oldf2, oldf0, oldf1);
  // in general we can find the face numbers by adding 6
  // to each color; however for Southern Equatorial
  // vertices there is one color that should not have 6
  // added, and that is the "non-contiguous" color.
  newf0 = c0 + 6;
  newf1 = c1 + 6:
  newf2 = c2 + 6:
  if (c0 != 1 && c1 != 1 && c2 != 1)
     // not pole, so correct one face
     if (std::abs(newf0 - newf1) == 1 || std::abs(newf0 - newf1) == 4)
        newf2 -= 6:
     else if (std::abs(newf1 - newf2) == 1 | |
std::abs(newf1 - newf2) ==
       newf0 -= 6:
     else
       newf1 -= 6;
  return FacesToVertex(newf0, newf1, newf2);
CMegaminx::vertex t
CMegaminx::CornerHavingColors(CMegaminx::color_t c0,
               CMegaminx::color_t cl. CMegaminx::color_t c2)
```



return i;

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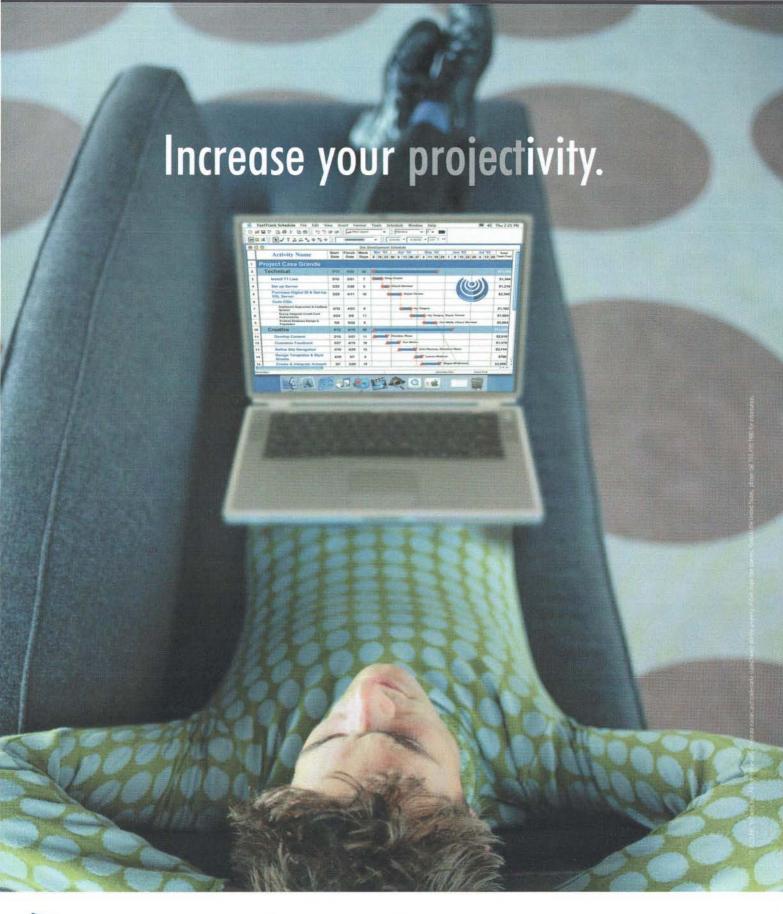
```
int desiredColors[5];
   desiredColors[0] = desiredColors[3] = c0;
desiredColors[1] = desiredColors[4] = c1;
   desiredColors[2] = c2;
   int trialVertex;
   for (trialVertex = 0: trialVertex < 20: trialVertex++)
      // get the actual colors and the correct colors;
      // the item is correctly placed if these lists are
      // rotations of each other.
      int f0, f1, f2;
      f0 = kCornerFaces[trialVertex][0];
      f1 = kCornerFaces[trialVertex]
      f2 = kCornerFaces[trialVertex][2];
      int trialColors[3];
      trialColors[0] = CornerFaceletColor(f0, f1, f2);
trialColors[1] = CornerFaceletColor(f1, f2, f0);
      trialColors[2] = CornerFaceletColor(f2, f0, f1);
      bool bHaveMatch = false:
      for (int i = 0; (i < 3) && !bHaveMatch; i++)
        bHaveMatch = true;
for (int j = 0; j\langle 3; j++)
           if (desiredColors[i+ j] != trialColors[j])
             bHaveMatch = false;
      if (bHaveMatch)
        break:
   return trialVertex:
CMegaminx::vertex_t
CMegaminx::NextCounterCWVertex(CMegaminx::face_t faceNumber.
           CMegaminx::vertex_t vertexNumber)
   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
      if (kFaceVertices[faceNumber][i] == vertexNumber)
        return kFaceVertices[faceNumber][(i == 4) ? 0 : i +
   :: SysBeep (1); // trouble, vertex not on face
   assert (false);
   return -1;
CMegaminx::vertex_t CMegaminx::NextCWVertex(CMegaminx::face t
               CMegaminx::face_t vertexNumber)
   for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
     if (kFaceVertices[faceNumber][i] == vertexNumber)
        return kFaceVertices[faceNumber][(i == 0) ? 4 : i -
1]:
   :: SysBeep (1): // trouble, vertex not on face
  assert(false):
  return -1;
void CMegaminx::FindNonAdjacentSouthFaces(CMegaminx::vertex_t
vI.
            CMegaminx::vertex_t v2,
CMegaminx::face_t *pf1, CMegaminx::face_t *pf2)
  int f1[2], f2[2]; // candidate faces
  f1[0] = kCornerFaces[v1][1];
  f1[1] = kCornerFaces[v1][2];
f2[0] = kCornerFaces[v2][1];
  f2[1] = kCornerFaces[v2][2];
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < 2; i++)
     for (int j = 0; j < 2; j++)
       int dist = f1[i] - f2[j];
if (dist < 0)</pre>
         dist = -dist;
       if (dist == 2 | dist == 3)
         *pf2 = f2[j]:
         return:
  :: SysBeep (1); // trouble, couldn't find suitable faces
  assert(false):
#ifndef NDEBUG
void CMegaminx::WriteComment(const char *pComment)
    fRotationsStream << " " << pComment << std::endl:
void CMegaminx::WriteComment(const char */*pComment*/)
  // nothing
#endif
bool CMegaminx::EdgeHasColors(CMegaminx::face_t f0.
CMegaminx::face_t f1,
           CMegaminx::color_t c0, CMegaminx::color_t c1)
  int actualc0 = fEdgeFacelets[f0][f1];
int actualc1 = fEdgeFacelets[f1][f0];
  bool bMatches = ((actualc0 == c0) && (actualc1 == c1)) ||
            ((actualc0 == c1) && (actualc1 == c0));
  return bMatches:
#pragma mark === CTempRotate ==
CTempRotate::CTempRotate(CMegaminx& rMega, CMegaminx::face_t
faceNumber,
         int clicks. CMegaminx::Direction direction) :
fMega(rMega).
fFaceNumber (faceNumber).
fClicks(clicks).
fDirection(direction)
  assert(fClicks >= 0):
  fMega.WriteComment("CTempRotate ctor");
  fMega.Slice(fFaceNumber, direction, fClicks):
CTempRotate::~CTempRotate()
  fMega.WriteComment("CTempRotate dtor"):
  fMega.Slice(fFaceNumber.
      fDirection == CMegaminx::eCW ?
           CMegaminx::eCounterCW : CMegaminx::eCW.
      fClicks):
```

CMEGAMINXAPP.H

// see online code archive

CMEGAMINX.H





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```
#pragma once
#include <fstream>
#include <string>
using std::string;
class CMegaminx
public:
  // various types and tables describing the Megaminx
  // enum for rotation direction; always measured looking
  // down on a face.
  // We also use this for an orientation of a corner; if
  // the color number increase CCW we call it CCW, and if
  // they increase CW we call it CW.
   enum Direction
     eCounterCW = 1.
     eCW = 2
  // typedefs for face number, color number, vertex number
   typedef int face_t;
   typedef int color_t;
   typedef int vertex_t:
  // vertices are numbered 0-19; these equates give the ranges
   static const int kNumVertices = 20;
   static const vertex_t kFirstNorthPoleVertex = 0;
   static const vertex_t kLastNorthPoleVertex = 4;
  static const vertex_t kFirstNorthEqVertex = 5;
static const vertex_t kLastNorthEqVertex = 9;
  static const vertex_t kFirstSouthEqVertex = 10;
static const vertex_t kLastSouthEqVertex =14;
   static const vertex_t kFirstSouthPoleVertex = 15;
   static const vertex_t kLastSouthPoleVertex = 19;
   // vertex numbers of each face, indexed 0 through 19,
   // counterclockwise looking at the face from outside
   static const vertex_t kFaceVertices[13][5];
   // list of all vertices and the adjoining faces. Faces are listed
   // in CCW order started with the lowest-numbered.
   static const face_t kCornerFaces[20][3];
   // list of adjacent face numbers, indexed by face number.
   // each item lists the faces adjacent to this one
   // in counterclockwise order as viewed from above this face.
   // This list must be coordinated with the vertex list so that
```

```
// face[1] touches vertices [0] and [1].
static const face_t kAdjacentFaces[13][5];
// list of faces below or below left of a vertex, indexed
// by vertex number. For North Equatorial vertices the face is
// below (the vertex is its top vertex) and for North Pole
// and South Equatorial vertices the face is below and
// to the left (the vertix is its upper right vertex).
static const face_t kFaceBelow[20]:
// list of faces above or above right of a vertex, indexed
// by vertex number. For South Equatorial vertices the face is
// above (the vertex is its bottom vertex) and for South Pole
// and North Equatorial vertices the face is above and
// to the right (the vertix is its lower left vertex).
static const face_t kFaceAbove[20];
// for equatorial faces, the faces above and below them.
// faces below and to left or right of given North Equatorial
// face; indexed by face number
static const face_t kFaceDownRight[13];
static const face_t kFaceDownLeft[13];
// faces above and to left or right of given South Equatorial
// face; indexed by face number
static const face_t kFaceUpRight[13];
static const face_t kFaceUpLeft[13];
// list of North Pole edges
static const int kNumNorthPoleEdges = 5:
static const face_t kNorthPoleEdgeN[kNumNorthPoleEdges];
static const face_t kNorthPoleEdgeS[kNumNorthPoleEdges]:
// list of North Equator edges.
static const face_t kNumNorthEqEdges = 5;
static const face_t kNorthEqEdgeL[kNumNorthEqEdges];
static const face_t kNorthEqEdgeR[kNumNorthEqEdges]:
// list of middle equatorial edges. Ordered in two arrays,
// the first giving the north face and the second the corresponding
// south face. For even indices the edge is below and right of the
// north face, for odd indices it is below and to the left.
static const int kNumMiddleEqEdges = 10;
static const face_t kMiddleEqEdgeN[kNumMiddleEqEdges];
static const face_t kMiddleEqEdgeS[kNumMiddleEqEdges];
// list of Southern Equator edges
static const int kNumSouthEqEdges = 5;
static const face_t kSouthEqEdgeL[kNumSouthEqEdges];
static const face_t kSouthEqEdgeR[kNumSouthEqEdges];
// list of South Pole edges
static const int kNumSouthPoleEdges = 5:
```

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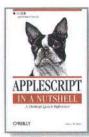
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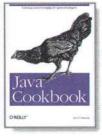






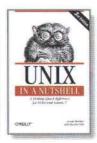
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```
static const face_t kSouthPoleEdgeN[kNumSouthPoleEdges];
   static const face_t kSouthPoleEdgeS[kNumSouthPoleEdges];
                                                                                            // find next vertex on a face
                                                                                            static vertex_t NextCounterCWVertex(face_t faceNumber,
                                                                                         vertex_t vertexNumber);
  static vertex_t NextCWVertex(face_t faceNumber, vertex_t
   // public functions
                                                                                         vertexNumber);
   CMegaminx(const string& testNumberString):
                                                                                            // find next or previous (numerically) South Equatorial faces
                                                                                           // Hind lear of previous (minerically static face | NextSouthEqFace(face t faceNumber) | return (faceNumber = 12) ? 8 : faceNumber + 1; ); static face t PrevSouthEqFace(face t faceNumber)
   ~CMegaminx():
  // load a corner facelet;
                                                                                              [ return (faceNumber == 8) ? 12 : faceNumber - 1; ];
  // faceNumber1 is the face it is on (numbered 1..12),
   // faceNumber2 and faceNumber3 are neighboring faces,
                                                                                            // find next or previous (numerically) North Equatorial faces
                                                                                            static face_t NextNorthEqFace(face_t faceNumber)
[ return (faceNumber == 6) ? 2 : faceNumber + 1; );
  // and colorNumber is the facelet's color (numbered 1..6).
   void LoadCornerFacelet(face_t faceNumber1, face_t
                                                                                            static face_t PrevNorthEqFace(face_t faceNumber)
[ return (faceNumber == 2) ? 6 : faceNumber - 1; );
faceNumber2.
                    face_t faceNumber3, color_t colorNumber);
  // similarly, load an edge facelet (no face 3 for these)
                                                                                            // tell which region a vertex is in
                                                                                            static bool IsNorthPoleVertex(vertex_t vertexNumber)
[ return (vertexNumber <= 4);];</pre>
   void LoadEdgeFacelet(face_t faceNumber1, face_t
faceNumber2.
                                                                                            static bool IsNorthEquatorVertex(vertex_t vertexNumber)
{ return (vertexNumber > 4 && vertexNumber <= 9);};</pre>
                    color t colorNumber):
                                                                                            static bool IsSouthEquatorVertex(vertex_t vertexNumber (return (vertexNumber > 9 && vertexNumber <= 14););
   // slice operation; rotate face one click in given direction;
   // changes our internal state and writes a line to
   // the rotations file.
                                                                                            static bool IsSouthPoleVertex(vertex_t vertexNumber)
   //This is a public function so that our helper classes
                                                                                               ( return (vertexNumber > 14):];
   // can get to it.
   void Slice(face_t faceNumber, Direction direction, int
                                                                                            // tell which region a face is in
                                                                                            static bool IsNorthPoleFace(face_t faceNumber)
clicks):
                                                                                               { return (faceNumber == 1); };
                                                                                            static bool IsNorthEquatorFace(face_t faceNumber)
   // check that the Megaminx is correctly solved
                                                                                           return (faceNumber > 1 && faceNumber <= 6); );
static bool IsSouthEquatorFace(face_t faceNumber)
{ return (faceNumber > 6 && faceNumber <= 11); );
static bool IsSouthPoleFace(face_t faceNumber)</pre>
   bool IsSolved():
   // check whether a corner is correctly placed, based
   // on its colors. The first checks only placement, not
                                                                                               ( return (faceNumber == 12); );
   // orientation.
   bool IsCornerCorrectlyPlaced(vertex_t vertex);
   bool IsCornerCorrect(vertex_t vertex);
                                                                                            // find non-adjacent South Equatorial faces holding
                                                                                            // these vertices. This is useful for lofting because
   // check whether an edge is correctly placed and positioned
                                                                                            // we can rotate these two faces independently without
   bool IsEdgeCorrect(face_t faceL, face_t faceR)
                                                                                            // affected the other face's vertex.
     return (fEdgeFacelets[faceL][faceR]
                                                                                            // The vertices v1 and v2 can be on the South Equator,
CorrectColor(faceL) &&
                                                                                            // the South Pole, or a mixture; except that they cannot
            fEdgeFacelets[faceR][faceL] ==
                                                                                            // be on the same vertical line (because they touch the
CorrectColor(faceR));1;
                                                                                            // same faces then); the caller must detect this and not
                                                                                            // call this routine in this case.
                                                                                            // look up the vertex having these faces
   vertex_t FacesToVertex(face_t f0, face_t f1, face_t f2);
                                                                                            // write a comment line to the rotations file telling
   // find correct location of the colors at a vertex,
                                                                                            // what we are doing (debug only)
   // assuming they should be in the Southern
                                                                                            void WriteComment(const char *pComment);
   // half. Returns the correct vertex number.
   // We assume the colors actually belong in the
                                                                                            // check whether an edge has the given colors (in either order)
   // specified Southern half, so caller
                                                                                            bool EdgeHasColors(face_t f0, face_t f1, color_t c0,
   // must check this. "Southern" means South Pole
                                                                                                    color_t c1):
   // or South Equatorial.
   // Corners with same colors have opposite orientations
   // in the Northern and Southern halves.
                                                                                         private:
   vertex_t CorrectSouthernVertex(vertex_t vertex);
                                                                                            // find the corner having these colors in this order
                                                                                            // used in implementation
   // (with rotations allowed). This means the corner that
   // is currently colored with these corners.
                                                                                            void SliceImp(face_t faceNumber, Direction direction):
   color_t CornerHavingColors(color_t c0, color_t c1, color_t
                                                                                                    // slice one turn
                                                                                            // utility for rotating part of a face
  // return facelet color of face f0 that borders f1 and f2
                                                                                            static void RotateFacelets(short **ppColor,
  color_t CornerFaceletColor(face_t f0, face_t f1, face_t f2)
   ( if (f1 < f2) return fCornerFacelets[f0][f1][f2];</pre>
                                                                                                    Direction direction):
        else return fCornerFacelets[f0][f2][f1];1;
  // return color of edge on f0 that borders f1
                                                                                            color_t EdgeFaceletColor(face_t f0. face_t f1)
                                                                                            // member variables
   | return fEdgeFacelets[f0][f1]; |:
                                                                                            // colors for edge and corner facelets
  // return correct color of solved Megaminx face
                                                                                            // colors are numbered 1 through 6; we use 0 for an invalid entry.
   static color_t CorrectColor(face_t faceNumber)
      | return (faceNumber (= 6) ? faceNumber : faceNumber -
                                                                                            // indices are the face number (and so run from 1 through 12).
6:1:
                                                                                            // edge facelets are indexed by the two faces they touch, with
```



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```
// the first index being the face they are on.
  // corner facelets are indexed by the three faces they touch,
  // with the first index being the face they are on,
  // with second index < third index.
  // We allocate many more items than are actually valid.
  short fEdgeFacelets[13][13];
  short fCornerFacelets[13][13][13]:
  // output stream for the answer
  std::ofstream fRotationsStream;
// class to temporarily rotate a face; when destructed,
// it rotates back in the other direction. The clicks
// can be 0, meaning no rotation.
class CTempRotate
public:
  CTempRotate(CMegaminx& rMega, CMegaminx::face_t faceNumber,
         int clicks, CMegaminx::Direction direction);
  ~CTempRotate():
private:
  CMegaminx& fMega:
  CMegaminx::face_t fFaceNumber:
  int fClicks:
  CMegaminx::Direction fDirection;
CSolver.h
// This class contains all the algorithms for solving Megaminx.
#pragma once
#include <fstream>
#include (string)
using std::string;
#include "CMegaminx.h"
class CCornerVisitor;
class CMegaminx;
class CSolver
public:
  CSolver (CMegaminx& rMega);
  ~CSolver():
  // solve the Megaminx and write out the solution
  void Solve():
  // call visitor
  void VisitAllCorners(CCornerVisitor &aVisitor):
  // used in implementation
  // double operations from Meffert
  // RUU = R upper star upper star, and so on
  void DoLUU(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace.
          CMegaminx::face_t rightFace);
  void DoRLL(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace.
         CMegaminx::face_t rightFace);
  void DoLLL(CMegaminx::face_t leftFace,
         CMegaminx::face_t rightFace);
  // distance along either the North or South pole vertices, measured
  // in the direction of increasing vertex number and wrapping around.
  // We use this when we are going to rotate in this direction.
```

```
// Also: distance along an equator from one face to another.
  //This calculates (to - from) mod 5.
  int Distance(int from, int to)
{ int dist = to - from; if (dist < 0) dist += 5; return</pre>
  // this checks that the South half edges are an even permutation
  // of the solved position. It returns true if the permutation
  // is even and false if it is odd.
  bool CheckEdgeParity():
  static int ParityLookup(CMegaminx::color_t c0.
          CMegaminx::color_t cl);
  // solution steps
  void Step3();
void Step3Edges();
CMegaminx::face_t Step3_4Drop(CMegaminx::color_t c0,
                  CMegaminx::color_t cl):
  void Step3Corners();
  void Step4();
  void Step5();
  void Step5PlaceVertex(CMegaminx::vertex_t srcVertex.
                  int destVertex):
  void Step5OrientVertex(int destVertex):
  void Step6():
  void Step6PlacePoleEdge(CMegaminx::face_t fromSFace.
               CMegaminx::face_t toEdgeIndex);
  void Step7();
  void Step7FlacePoleEdge(CMegaminx::face_t srcFaceN.
CMegaminx::face_t destFaceL.
               CMegaminx::face_t destFaceR);
  void Step8();
  void Step8ReferenceEdge();
  void Step8SecondEdge():
  void Step8ThirdEdge();
  void Step8RestoreEquator();
  void Step80rientFourFive():
  void Step9():
  void Step9EquatorAndPole(CMegaminx::vertex_t dst.
                CMegaminx::vertex_t src);
  void Step10();
  void Step11();
  void Step11BothEquators(CMegaminx::vertex_t vCounterCW.
               CMegaminx::vertex_t vCW);
  // verification steps (these run only in debug mode);
  // they check that various things are correctly positioned
  // at the end of step n, and assert if they are not.
  // Each step calls the preceding step, so all earlier
  // verifications are re-performed too.
  void Step3Verify(
void Step4Verify(
  void Step5Verify():
  void Step6Verify();
  void Step7Verify():
  void Step8Verify():
  void Step9Verify();
  void Step10Verify():
  void Step11Verify();
  // member variables
  CMegaminx& fMega: // Megaminx being solved
// CCornerVisitor Class
class CCornerVisitor
public:
  CCornerVisitor() ():
  virtual ~CCornerVisitor() ();
  virtual void VisitCorner(int cornerIndex) = 0;
```



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By Andrew S. Downs

Dock Tile Imaging

Changing a Java application's dock tile at runtime

OVERVIEW

The Dock Manager API allows a programmer to alter the tile for an application at runtime. Using the Java Native Interface, a Java application can change its tile dynamically as well. This involves a combination of Java and native code.

Two approaches are illustrated in this article. The first captures the pixels from a Java image and passes them to a native library function, which uses the CoreGraphics (Quartz) API to replace the application's tile (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. A modified Dock tile.

The second example uses QuickDraw to paint a progress bar over the tile, as shown in Figure 2. The progress data is sent from Java to a native library function, and the imaging is done in the library.



Figure 2. The progress bar at the bottom of the tile, showing 60% complete.

If you want to code along with the examples, my recommendation is to first download the INISample project from Apple's developer site (see the URLs at the end of this article). That project served as the structural basis for the code in this article. All the build settings are already in place, making it an easy-to-use learning tool. (There are targets for compiling both the Java and native code, generating the javah file, building a library, etc.) I kept the filenames the same, but replaced the content of the various files. In the listings below you will see the filenames as they exist in that project.

JAVA

One class (DockTiler) provides most of the functionality for this example. It relies on two other classes for getting and drawing (offscreen) an image from a local file. You can also load an image via a non-local URL, which would allow the app to change the tile in response to outside conditions. For example, an application that retrieves weather data can change the tile to reflect current conditions or the forecast.

The JNISample class contains main(), the entry point for the Java application. It is used simply to instantiate DockTiler and invoke one of its instance methods.

Listing 1: JNISample.java

JNISample

```
The classes contained here include:
  INISample: creates and calls a DockTiler instance.
   DockTiler: loads the image and sends it to the native drawing code.
  LocalFiler: allows the user to select a local file for display in the tile.
  PictureFrame: an offscreen Canvas which draws the image, allowing DockTiler
  to retrieve the image pixels.
```

```
// The image support comes from the AWT and the image package.
import java.awt.*:
import java.awt.image.*;
import java.util.*;
public class JNISample (
  public JNISample() []
  //Test code
  public static void main (String args[]) (
    DockTiler dock = new DockTiler();
    dock.test();
    System.out.println( "Finished." ):
)
```

Andrew has been a Java fan since his first encounter with the language at the WebEdge III conference in 1996. You can reach him at andrew@downs.ws.

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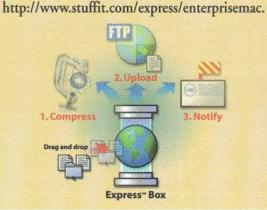
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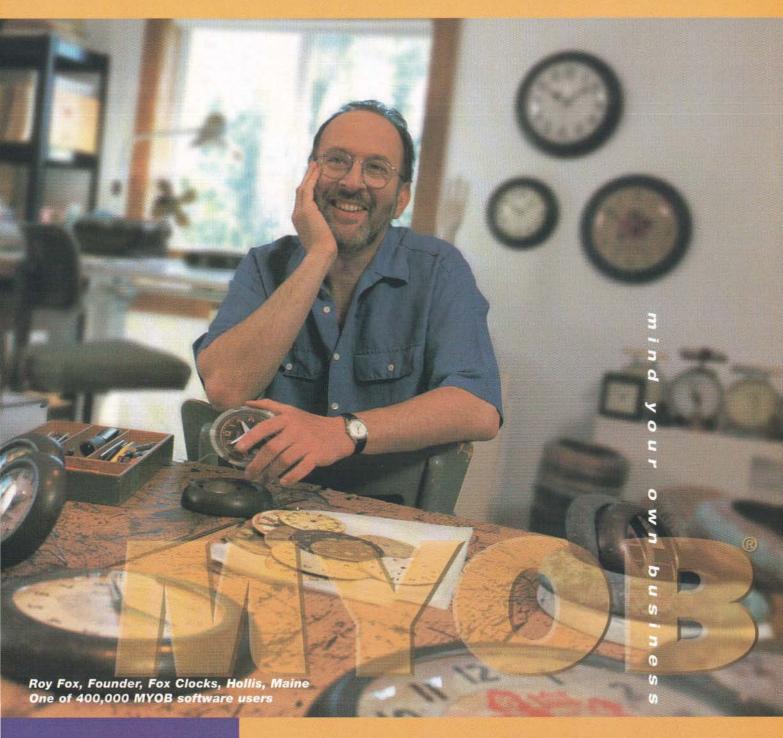


```
class DockTiler (
  // If we have trouble loading an image, the values of its width and height will
  // remain at -1. See loadImage().
  int mWidth = -1, mHeight = -1;
int mPixels[];
     // Load the library when this class gets loaded.
     System.loadLibrary( "Example"
  public DockTiler() (
  // These are the two functions in the shared library that we will call.
  // Note the declaration as native.
  native void setDockTile( int[] pixels, int width,
     int height );
  native void updateProgressBar( int currPercent );
  //The primary test driver.
  public void test() (
     loadImage():
     setDockTile( mPixels, mWidth, mHeight ):
     performTask():
  // Read in the image and retrieve its pixels.
  protected void loadImage() (
  LocalFile lf = new LocalFile();
     String filename = lf.getFilePath():
     Image image =
        Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit().getImage( filename );
     // Send the image to the Canvas, where it will be rendered.
     PictureFrame pf = new PictureFrame( image ):
     Frame f = new Frame( "Image" ):
     // Setup offscreen.
     f.setBounds( -250, -250, 200, 200 ):
     f.setLayout( new BorderLayout() );
f.add( "Center". pf );
pf.setSize( 128, 128 );
     f.pack():
     // An invisible window won't render an image.
     f.setVisible( true );
     f.repaint():
     pf.repaint():
     // Use the Canvas as the observer during the loading process.
     int width = image.getWidth( pf );
int height = image.getHeight( pf );
     // Allocate storage for the image data.
     mPixels = new int[ width * height ];
     // Create an object to copy the image pixel data into our array.
     PixelGrabber pg = new PixelGrabber( image, 0. 0. width, height, mPixels, 0. width);
     // Copy the pixels to the array.
       pg.grabPixels();
       // Check for error using bit values in the ImageObserver class.
        if ( ( pg.getStatus() & ImageObserver.ABORT ) != 0
       // If successful, set instance attributes to legitimate values (not -1).
       mWidth = width:
       mHeight = height:
```

```
catch ( InterruptedException e ) (
       return:
  // For a task that may take some time, it helps to wrap it in a separate method
  // even class, and spin it off as a thread. Here, simply get the current progress
  // and display it.
  protected void performTask() [
     int percentComplete = 0;
     boolean taskComplete = false:
     while ( !taskComplete ) (
        // Call the native method that draws the progress bar.
        updateProgressBar( percentComplete );
        percentComplete = updateTask();
        if ( percentComplete >= 100 )
          taskComplete = true;
  int mCount = 0;
  // Lengthy tasks will use a sophisticated approach to determining completion.
  // This example uses a simple loop so we can watch the bar move.
  protected int updateTask() (
     return mCount++;
class LocalFile (
  FileDialog mFileDialog = null;
  // Display a dialog asking the user to choose a file.
  public LocalFile() {
   if ( mFileDialog == null ) {
    mFileDialog = new FileDialog( new Frame().
          "Select an image file". FileDialog.LOAD );
  1
  // Build and return the path to the file (if selected).
  public String getFilePath()
     mFileDialog.setVisible( true ):
     String retval = "":
     if ( mFileDialog.getFile() != null &&
    mFileDialog.getFile().length() > 0 ) {
    retval = mFileDialog.getDirectory();
        if ( !retval.endsWith(
   System.getProperty( "file.separator" ) ) )
  retval += System.getProperty( "file.separator" );
       retval += mFileDialog.getFile();
    return retval:
  1
// A subclass of java.awt.Canvas that draws an Image object.
class PictureFrame extends Canvas (
  Image mImage;
  PictureFrame ( Image img ) (
     super();
     mImage = img:
    setBackground( Color.white ):
  public void update( Graphics g ) [
    paint(g);
```

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```
// Draw the image.
public void paint( Graphics g ) {
  g.drawImage( mImage, 0, 0, this );
}
```

JAVA NATIVE INTERFACE CODE

JNI code is C code that bridges the Java and native worlds, handling the conversion between Java data types and their native counterparts. The JNIEnv pointer in each function indirectly points to a function table containing JNI functions, and the jobject references the instance of the class making the call. Any additional arguments are the values passed from the Java code to the native code.

Listing 2: ExampleJNILib.c

ExampleJNILib

The JNI glue for converting arguments prior to calling through to the native code.

```
#include "JNISample.h"
#include "ExampleDylib.h"
JNIEXPORT void JNICALL Java_DockTiler_setDockTile(
  JNIEnv 'env, jobject this, jintArray pixels, jint
   jint height ) (
  // Obtain a pointer to the array to pass to the native function.
  jint *theArray = (*env)->GetIntArrayElements(
    env. pixels, NULL );
  if ( theArray != NULL ) (
    // Call the library function.
     // Note that no adjustments are made to the primitive values.
     setDockTile( theArray, width, height );
     //Tell the VM we are no longer interested in the array.
     (*env)->ReleaseIntArrayElements( env. pixels,
theArray.
       0):
JNIEXPORT void JNICALL Java_DockTiler_updateProgressBar(
  JNIEnv *env, jobject this, jint currPercent )
  // Call the library function.
  // No additional translation is needed on primitive values.
  updateProgressBar( currPercent );
```

THE LIBRARY

The native library contains the actual tile drawing code. One function creates an image and replaces the existing tile with the new one. The second function uses a completion percentage value to determine how much of the progress bar to paint. It draws over the bottom of the existing tile.

Listing 3: ExampleDylib.c

ExampleDylib.c

Perform drawing in the Dock tile.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <Carbon/Carbon.h>
#include <ApplicationServices/ApplicationServices.h>
```

```
// Args include the array of pixel RGBA values, and the actual image width and
extern void setDockTile( int * imagePixels, int width.
  int height ) (
  // How many bytes in each pixel? Java uses 4-byte ints.
  int kNumComponents = 4:
  OSStatus the Error:
  // Several CoreGraphics variables.
   CGContextRef theContext;
   CGDataProviderRef theProvider:
   CGColorSpaceRef theColorspace;
  CGImageRef theImage:
  // How many bytes in each row?
   size_t bytesPerRow = width * kNumComponents;
  // Obtain graphics context in which to render.
   theContext = BeginCGContextForApplicationDockTile();
   if ( theContext != NULL ) (
     // Use the pixels passed in as the image source.
     theProvider = CGDataProviderCreateWithData(
        NULL, imagePixels, ( bytesPerRow * height ), NULL
):
     theColorspace = CGColorSpaceCreateDeviceRGB();
     // Create the image. This is similar to creating a PixMap.
     // - The width and height were passed as arguments.
// - The next two values (8 and 32) are the bits per pixel component and
        total bits per pixel, respectively.
     // - bytesPerRow was calculated above.
     // - Use the colorspace ref obtained previously.
     // - The alpha or transparency data is in the first byte of each pixel.
     // - Use the data source created a few lines above.
     // - The remaining parameters are typical defaults. Consult the API docs for
     // more info.
     theImage = CGImageCreate( width, height, 8, 32,
bytesPerRow, theColorspace, kCGImageAlphaFirst,
theProvider, NULL, 0, kCGRenderingIntentDefault );
     CGDataProviderRelease( theProvider );
     CGColorSpaceRelease( theColorspace ):
     // Set the created image as the tile.
     theError = SetApplicationDockTileImage( theImage );
     CGContextFlush( theContext ):
     CGImageRelease( theImage ):
     EndCGContextForApplicationDockTile( theContext );
extern void updateProgressBar( const int currPercent ) [
  CgrafPtr thePort:
  RecttheRect:
  float right = 0;
  // Obtain graphics context.
   thePort = BeginQDContextForApplicationDockTile();
  if ( thePort != NULL ) (
     // Good of QuickDraw.
     GetPortBounds( thePort, &theRect );
     // Initially, draw the background of the bar and frame it.
     if ( currPercent == 0 )
       SetRect( &theRect, theRect.left, theRect.bottom -
10.
       theRect.right, theRect.bottom );
ForeColor( redColor );
       PaintRect( &theRect );
ForeColor( blackColor );
       FrameRect( &theRect ):
```

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// Calculate right-edge of progress bar. if (currPercent >= 100) right = (float)theRect.right; else right = ((float)theRect.right (float)theRect.left) / (float)100) * (float)currPercent; // Draw the entire progress bar up until this point. ForeColor(greenColor); // Inset the progress rectangle on our own. SetRect(&theRect, theRect.left + 1, theRect.bottom - 9, (int)right, theRect.bottom - 1); PaintRect(&theRect); QDFlushPortBuffer(thePort, NULL); EndQDContextForApplicationDockTile(thePort); }

The image creation using the CoreGraphics API is the trickiest part. This example uses the fact that a Java int is 4 bytes, and that alpha (transparency) data, if included, is stored in the most significant byte. After some trial and error, I found that the settings shown here work for the images I tested against.

USEFUL URLS

I used quite a few outside sources (primarily Apple) in preparing this article. Though some of these URLs may change, I want to at least point you in the right direction.

- The tile images came royalty-free from The Clip Art Connection:
 - http://www.clipartconnection.com/photos/index.html?qid=18937
- Sun has a simple PixelGrabber example: http://java.sun.com/products/java-media/2D/forDevelopers/ 2Dapi/java/awt/image/PixelGrabber.html
- The QuickDraw API: http://developer.apple.com/techpubs/macosx/Carbon/graphics/ QuickDraw/quickdraw.html
- The Dock Manager API: http://developer.apple.com/techpubs/macosx/Carbon/ HumanInterfaceToolbox/DockManager/dockmanager.html
- The CoreGraphics routines are briefly discussed in the QuartzPrimer: http://developer.apple.com/techpubs/macosx/Essentials/QuartzPrimer.pdf
- A sample JNI application that formed the basis for the project in this article: http://developer.apple.com/samplecode/Sample_Code/Java/
 - http://developer.apple.com/samplecode/Sample_Code/Java/ JNISample.htm
- A sample Dock drawing application (in C): http://developer.apple.com/samplecode/Sample_Code/ Human_Interface_Toolbox/Tiler.htm
- This one is a book, not a URL, and is very useful: Liang, Sheng. The Java Native Interface. Sun Microsystems, Inc. 1999.

QUICKTIME TOOLKIT

by Tim Monroe

Virtuosity

Programming with QuickTime VR

INTRODUCTION

QuickTime VR (or, more briefly, QTVR) is the part of QuickTime that allows users to interactively explore and examine photorealistic, three-dimensional virtual worlds and objects. A QuickTime VR movie is a collection of one or more nodes; each node is either a panoramic node (also known as a panorama) or an object node (also known as an object). Figure 1 shows a view of a sample panoramic node, and Figure 2 shows a view of an object node. (When a QuickTime VR movie consists of a single node, folks often refer to it as a panorama movie or an object movie, depending on the type of node it contains.)

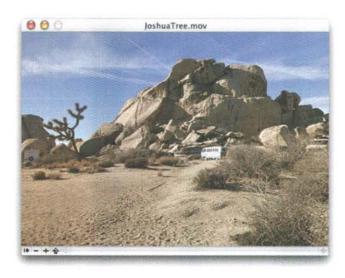


Figure 1: A QuickTime VR panorama

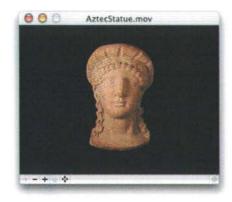


Figure 2: A QuickTime VR object movie

QuickTime VR movies are managed by the *QuickTime VR movie* controller, a movie controller component that knows how to interpret user actions in a QuickTime VR movie. The QuickTime VR movie controller also displays a controller bar with buttons that are appropriate to QuickTime VR movies. From left to right, the five buttons allow the user to go back to the previous node, zoom out, zoom in, show the visible hot spots, and translate an object in the movie window. The QuickTime VR movie controller automatically disables any buttons that are not appropriate for the current node type or movie state. For instance, the back button is disabled in Figure 2 because the movie is a single-node movie. Similarly, the translate button is disabled in Figure 1 because the current node is a panoramic node, not an object node.

QuickTime has supported QuickTime VR movie creation and playback since mid-1995. In early 1997, Apple released QuickTime VR version 2.0, which (in addition to numerous other improvements) provided a C programming interface to QuickTime VR. This interface, called the *QuickTime VR Manager*, provides an extensive set of functions for controlling QuickTime VR movies. In this article, we'll take a look at the QuickTime VR Manager.

The QuickTime VR movie controller also allows QuickTime VR movies to send and receive wired actions. This allows us, for instance, to use buttons in a Flash track to control a QTVR movie, as illustrated in **Figure 3**. Here the Flash buttons in the lower-left corner of the movie are configured to send the appropriate QuickTime wired actions to pan,

Tim Monroe in a member of the QuickTime engineering team. You can contact him at monroe@apple.com. The views expressed here are not necessarily shared by his employer.



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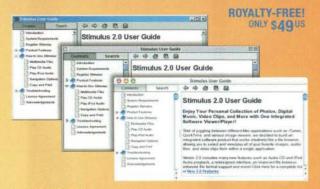
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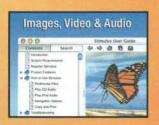


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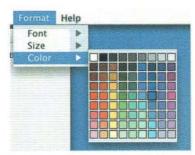
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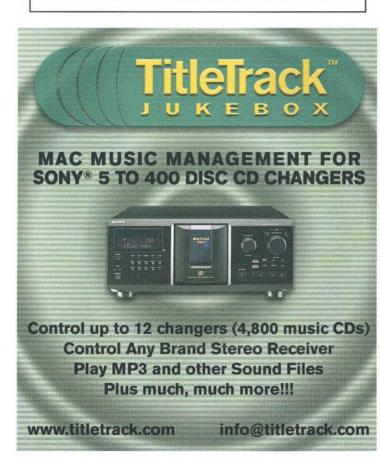
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tilt, or zoom the panorama. (We saw how to attach wired actions to Flash track buttons in "The Flash II: Revenge of the Trickster", *MacTech*, February 2002.)



Figure 3: A Flash track controlling a QuickTime VR movie

We'll take a look at the actions that can be targeted at a QuickTime VR movie, and we'll also see how to attach wired actions to elements in a QuickTime VR movie. We can attach wired actions to a particular node or to a particular hot spot in a node. So, for example, we could wire a hot spot to launch the user's web browser and navigate to a particular web site when the user clicks that hot spot. Or we can have some actions triggered when the user enters a node. We won't learn how to build QuickTime VR movies in this article, but we will need to understand some of the structure of these movies in order to learn how to attach wired actions to nodes and hot spots.

THE QUICKTIME VR MANAGER

The QuickTime VR Manager provides a large number of capabilities that we can use to customize and extend the user's virtual experience of panoramas and objects. Here we'll summarize the basic capabilities of the QuickTime VR Manager. Then, in the following sections, we'll illustrate how to use some of them. The QuickTime VR Manager provides these main capabilities:

- Positioning. A QuickTime VR movie file contains a scene, which is a collection of one or more nodes. Each node is uniquely identified by its node ID. Within a panoramic node, the user's view is determined by three factors: the pan angle, the tilt angle, and the vertical field of view (sometimes also called the zoom angle). For objects, the view is also determined by the view center (the position of the center of the object in the movie window). The QuickTime VR Manager provides functions to get and set any of these items. For instance, we can programmatically spin an object around by repeatedly incrementing the current pan angle.
- Hot spot handling. We can use the QuickTime VR Manager to manage any hot spots in a panorama or object. For instance, we can trigger a hot spot programmatically (that is, simulate a click on the hot spot), enable and disable hot spots, determine whether the cursor is over a hot spot, find all visible hot spots, and so forth. We can also install a callback routine that is called whenever the cursor is over an enabled hot spot.
- Custom node-entering and -leaving behaviors. The QuickTime VR Manager allows us to perform actions whenever the user enters a new node or leaves the current node. For instance, we might use a node-entering procedure to play a

- sound when the user enters a particular node. Or, we can use a node-leaving procedure to prevent the user from leaving a node until some task has been accomplished.
- Getting information. We can use the QuickTime VR Manager to
 get information about a scene or about a specific node. For
 instance, we might want to determine the ID and type of the
 current node. Much of the information about scenes and nodes is
 stored in atoms in the movie file. To get information about a scene
 or node that isn't provided directly by the QuickTime VR Manager,
 we'll need to use the QuickTime atom container functions to
 extract information from those atoms.
- Intercepting QuickTime VR Manager functions. We can intercept calls to some QuickTime VR Manager functions in order to augment or modify their behavior. For example, to assign behaviors to custom hot spots, we can install an intercept routine that is called whenever a hot spot is triggered. Our intercept routine might check the type of the triggered hot spot and then perform the actions appropriate for that type. Another common use of intercept routines is to intercept positioning functions (changing the pan, tilt, and field of view) and adjust environmental factors accordingly. For instance, we can adjust the balance and volume of a sound as the pan angle changes in a panorama, thereby making it appear that the sound is localized within the panorama.
- Accessing the prescreen buffer. QuickTime VR maintains an
 offscreen buffer for each panorama, called the prescreen buffer.
 The prescreen buffer contains the image that is about to be copied
 to the screen. We can use QuickTime VR Manager functions to
 access the prescreen buffer, perhaps to draw a graphic image over
 the panorama.

This list is not exhaustive. The QuickTime VR Manager provides many other capabilities as well. For a complete description, see the technical documentation cited at the end of this article.

QUICKTIME VR MOVIE PLAYBACK

Our existing sample applications, such as QTShell, are already able to open and display QuickTime VR movies. The QuickTime VR movie controller handles the basic click-and-drag navigation, keyboard input, and controller bar events. We need to use the QuickTime VR Manager only if we want to exploit some of the capabilities described just above.

Initializing the QuickTime VR Manager

Before we can call the QuickTime VR Manager, however, we need to do a little setting up (over and above what's required for using QuickTime). First, we need to ensure that the QuickTime VR Manager is available in the current operating environment. There are several Gestalt selectors that we can use to see whether the QuickTime VR Manager is available and what features it has. **Listing 1** shows the definition of the QTVRUtils_IsQTVRMgrInstalled function, which indicates whether the QuickTime VR Manager is available in the current operating environment.

Listing 1: Determining whether the QuickTime VR Manager is available

QTVRUtils_IsQTVRMgrInstalled
Boolean QTVRUtils_IsQTVRMgrInstalled (void)

(
Boolean myQTVRAvail = false;

For simplicity, we'll introduce a global variable to keep track of whether the QuickTime VR Manager is available: gQTVRMgrIsPresent = QTVRUtils_IsQTVRMgrInstalled();

On Windows operating systems, we need to call the InitializeQTVR function to initialize the QuickTime VR Manager, like this:

```
#if TARGET_OS_WIN32
   InitializeQTVR();
#endif
```

We also need to close our connection to the QuickTime VR Manager before our application terminates:

```
#if TARGET_OS_WIN32
   TerminateQTVR():
#endif
```

Calling any other QuickTime VR Manager functions before calling InitializeQTVR will result in an error on Windows.

Getting the QTVR Instance

The QuickTime VR Manager keeps track of QuickTime VR movies using an identifier called a *QTVR instance* (of data type QTVRInstance). Virtually all QuickTime VR Manager functions operate on QTVR instances. You can think of an instance as representing a scene — that is, a collection of nodes — or sometimes just the current node. We obtain a QTVR instance by calling the QTVRGetQTVRInstance function. QTVRGetQTVRInstance takes a reference to a QTVR track, which we can obtain by calling QTVRGetQTVRTrack. **Listing 2** shows our definition of QTApp_SetupWindowObject, which we call for every movie we open.

Listing 2: Getting a QTVR instance

```
QTApp_SetupWindowObject
void QTApp_SetupWindowObject (WindowObject theWindowObject)
  Track
                            myQTVRTrack = NULL:
  Movie
                            myMovie = NULL:
  MovieController
                            mvMC = NULL:
                            myInstance = NULL;
  OTVRInstance
  if (theWindowObject = NULL)
     return:
  // make sure we can safely call the QTVR API
  if (!gQTVRMgrIsPresent)
     return;
  // find the QTVR track, if there is one
 myMC = (**theWindowObject).fController;
myMovie = (**theWindowObject).fMovie;
  myQTVRTrack = QTVRGetQTVRTrack(myMovie.
  QTVRGetQTVRInstance(&myInstance, myQTVRTrack, myMC);
    **theWindowObject).fInstance = myInstance;
  // do any QTVR window configuration
  if (myInstance != NULL)
     // set unit to radians
     QTVRSetAngularUnits(myInstance, kQTVRRadians);
```

Notice that we keep track of the QTVR instance by storing it in the fInstance field of the window object associated with the movie (here, the Window Object). This gives us an easy way to determine whether a

given movie window contains a QuickTime VR movie. Notice also that we call the QTVRSetAngularUnits function to set our preferred angular units to radians. The QuickTime VR Manager can work with either degrees or radians when specifying angular measurements (for instance, when we call QTVRGetPanAngle). The default angular unit type is degrees. Internally, the QuickTime VR Manager always uses radians, and in some situations it gives us measurements in radians no matter what the current angular unit. In general, therefore, I find it easier to work in radians most of the time, so I've reset the angular unit type to radians. (Your preference may vary.) We can define some simple macros to allow us to convert between degrees and radians:

We don't need to explicitly release or dispose of a QTVR instance; the value we obtain by calling QTVRGetQTVRInstance remains valid until we dispose of the associated movie controller.

Controlling View Angles

Finally we're ready to use the QuickTime VR Manager to do some real work. The most basic way to use the API is to control the view angles of a node — the pan, tilt, and field of view angles. **Listing 3** defines a function that gradually increments the pan angle through 360 degrees. With panoramas, this has the effect of making the user seem to spin a full circle (as if the user were spinning on a rotating stool). With objects, this has the effect of making the object spin around a full circle (as if the object were spinning on a turntable).

```
Listing 3: Spinning a node around once
```

```
SpinAroundOnce

void SpinAroundOnce (QTVRInstance theInstance)

float myOrigPanAngle, myCurrPanAngle;
myOrigPanAngle = QTVRGetPanAngle(theInstance);
for (myCurrPanAngle = myOrigPanAngle;
myCurrPanAngle <= myOrigPanAngle + kVR2Pi;
myCurrPanAngle + QTVRUtils_DegreesToRadians(10.0)) (
QTVRSetPanAngle(theInstance, myCurrPanAngle);
QTVRUpdate(theInstance, kQTVRCurrentMode);
```

The idea here is simple: get the starting pan angle (by calling QTVRGetPanAngle) and then repeatedly increment the pan angle by a certain amount (here, 10 degrees) until a full circle has been traversed. Note that we need to call the QTVRUpdate function after we set a new pan angle to make sure the updated view is displayed on the screen.

Drawing on a Panorama

Suppose we want to draw a logo or other graphic element on top of a panorama (as seems to be in vogue on broadcast television channels these days). As we learned earlier, we can draw into a panorama's prescreen buffer before that buffer is copied to the screen. (Object nodes don't have prescreen buffers, so this technique won't work for those kinds of nodes.) We exploit this capability by installing a prescreen buffer imaging completion procedure, which is called by the QuickTime VR Manager each time the prescreen buffer

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is about to be copied to the screen. We install our procedure using the QTVRSetPrescreenImagingCompleteProc function:

The QTVRSetPrescreenImagingCompleteProc function takes four parameters, which are the QTVR instance, a universal procedure pointer to the imaging complete procedure, a four-byte reference constant, and four-byte flags parameter. In this case, we pass the window object reference as the third parameter so that the imaging complete procedure can access any data associated with the window.

Our prescreen buffer imaging completion procedure is called after QuickTime VR has finished drawing into the prescreen buffer. When it's called, the current graphics port is set to the prescreen buffer. All we need to do is draw a picture at the appropriate spot, as shown in **Listing 4**.

Listing 4: Drawing a picture on top of a panorama

```
MyPrescreenRoutine
pascal OSErr MyPrescreenRoutine
  (QTVRInstance theInstance, WindowObject theWindowObject)
#pragma unused(theInstance)
  ApplicationDataHdl
                        myAppData:
  Rect
                           myMovieRect:
  Rect
                           myPictRect
  // get the application-specific data associated with the window
  myAppData = (ApplicationDataHdl)
                 GetAppDataFromWindowObject(theWindowObject):
  if (myAppData = NULL)
     return(paramErr);
  // if there is no picture to display, just return
  if ((**myAppData).fPicture = NULL)
     return(noErr);
  // get the current size of the movie
  GetMovieBox((**theWindowObject).fMovie, &myMovieRect);
  // set the size and position of the overlay rectangle
  MacSetRect(&myPictRect. 0. 0. 32. 32):
  MacOffsetRect(&myPictRect,
              myMovieRect.right - (myPictRect.right + 5),
               myMovieRect.bottom - (myPictRect.bottom + 5));
  // draw the picture
  DrawPicture((**myAppData).fPicture, &myPictRect);
  return(noErr);
```

There's nothing very complicated in this prescreen buffer imaging completion procedure. Essentially, it just figures out where in the buffer to draw the picture and then draws it. We assume that a handle to the picture data is stored in the fPicture field of the application data record.

Intercepting QuickTime VR Manager Functions

Suppose we want to play a sound every time the user clicks on (that is, triggers) a hot spot. The easiest way to do this is to install an *intercept procedure* that is called each time a hot spot is triggered. The intercept procedure simply plays the sound and then returns, whereupon QuickTime VR processes the hot spot click as usual. **Listing 5** shows a simple hot spot triggering intercept procedure.

```
Listing 5: Playing a sound on hot spot clicks
```

```
MyInterceptRoutine pascal void MyInterceptRoutine (
QTVRInstance theInstance,
QTVRInterceptPtr theMsg,
WindowObject theWindowObject,
Boolean *cancel)
```

An intercept routine is executed whenever the intercepted routine is called, either programmatically or by a user action. On entry, the QuickTime VR Manager provides three pieces of information: the relevant QTVR instance, a pointer to an *intercept record*, and an application-defined reference constant, which we use here to pass in the window object. The intercept record (pointed to by the theMsg parameter) has this structure:

```
struct QTVRInterceptRecord (
SInt32 reserved1;
SInt32 selector;
SInt32 reserved2;
SInt32 reserved3;
SInt32 paramCount;
void *parameter[6];
```

For present purposes, we need to inspect only the selector field, which contains a value that indicates which intercepted routine is being called. As you can see in Listing 5, we look for any calls to QTVRTriggerHotSpot and call the application-defined function MyPlaySound when we get one.

We install an intercept procedure by calling the QTVRInstallInterceptProc function, as shown in **Listing 6**.

```
Listing 6: Installing an intercept routine
```

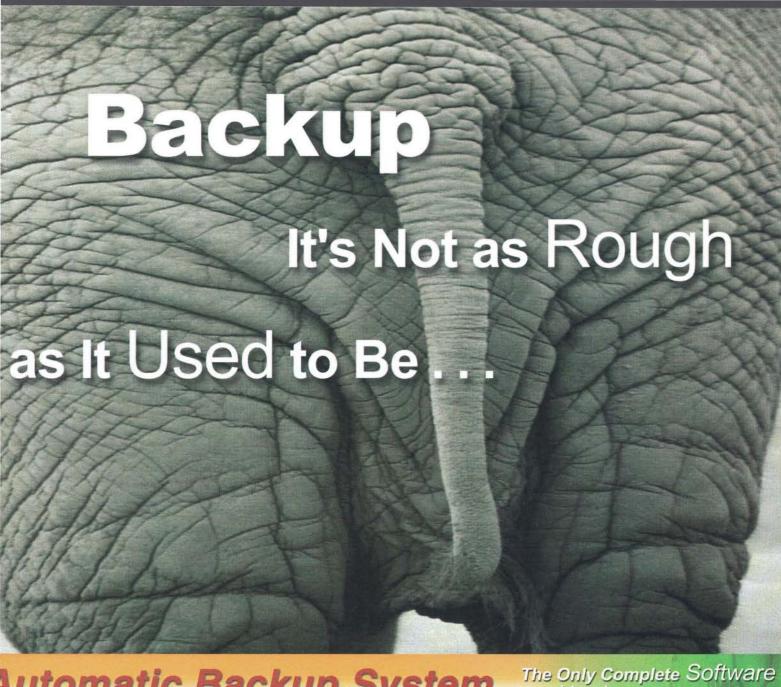
```
MyInstallInterceptRoutine (
QTVRInstance theInstance, WindowObject theWindowObject)

QTVRInterceptUPP myInterceptProc;
myInterceptProc =
NewQTVRInterceptProc (MyInterceptRoutine);
QTVRInstallInterceptProc (theInstance,
kQTVRTriggerHotSpotSelector, myInterceptProc,
(SInt32) theWindowObject, 0);
```

THE QUICKTIME VR FILE FORMAT

Unlike movies containing other interactive media types (such as sprite or Flash) where the media data can be stored in a single track, a QuickTime VR movie always contains several tracks. A panorama movie, for instance, contains a panorama image track (which holds the image data for the panorama), a panorama track (which contains information about the panoramic node), and a QTVR track (which maintains general information about the movie, such as the default imaging properties). Similarly, an object movie contains an object image track (which holds the image data for the object), an object track (which contains information about the object node), and a QTVR track. For multi-node movies, the QTVR track also contains a list of the nodes in the movie and an indication of which node is the default node. Movies with hot spots also contain a hot spot image track (a video track where the hot spots are designated by colored regions).

Usually this structure is important to us only when we want to create a QuickTime VR movie. But it's also useful when we want to



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alter an existing QuickTime VR movie or to extract information not provided by the available QuickTime VR Manager functions.

Working with Node Information

A QTVR track maintains general information about a QuickTime VR movie. Each individual sample in the QTVR track's media is an atom container called a node information atom container. This atom container holds a node beader atom, which contains information about a single node, such as the node's type, ID, and name. The node information atom container can also hold a bot spot parent atom if the node has any hot spots in it. The QuickTime VR Manager provides the QTVRGetNodeInfo function that we can use to get a copy of a particular node information atom container or of any of its children. Listing 7 defines a function that we can use to get a copy of a node header atom for a specified node ID.

Listing 7: Finding the node header atom data

```
QTVRUtils_GetNodeHeaderAtomData
OSErr QTVRUtils_GetNodeHeaderAtomData
          (QTVRInstance theInstance, UInt32 theNodeID.
          QTVRNodeHeaderAtomPtr theNodeHdrPtr)
  QTAtomContainer
                        myNodeInfo:
  QTAtom
                        myAtom;
                        myErr = noErr;
  // get the node information atom container for the specified node
  myErr = QTVRGetNodeInfo(theInstance, theNodeID,
          &myNodeInfo);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     return(myErr):
  // get the single node header atom in the node information atom container
  myAtom = QTFindChildByID(myNodeInfo,
          kParentAtomIsContainer, kQTVRNodeHeaderAtomType, 1,
          NULL);
  if (myAtom != 0)
     myErr = QTCopyAtomDataToPtr(myNodeInfo, myAtom, false,
            sizeof(QTVRNodeHeaderAtom), theNodeHdrPtr. NULL):
     myErr = cannotFindAtomErr;
  QTDisposeAtomContainer(myNodeInfo);
  return(myErr);
```

As you can see, we call QTVRGetNodeInfo to get the node information atom container for the specified node ID; then we call QTFindChildByID to find the single node header atom inside that container. If we find that atom, we call QTCopyAtomDataToPtr to make a copy of its data. A node header atom has this structure:

```
struct QTVRNodeHeaderAtom |
  UInt16
                       majorVersion:
  UInt16
                       minorVersion;
  OSType
                       nodeType:
  QTAtomID
                       nodeID:
  QTAtomID
                       nameAtomID;
  QTAtomID
                       commentAtomID:
  UInt32
                       reserved1:
  UInt32
                       reserved2;
```

Listing 8 defines the function QTVRUtils_GetNodeType, which reads the nodeType field of a node header atom to determine the node type. (In fact, the QuickTime VR Manager provides the QTVRGetNodeType function to get a node's type; we present QTVRUtils_GetNodeType simply to show another way of getting that information.)

```
Listing 8: Getting a node type
```

QTVRUtils_GetNodeType

```
OSErr QTVRUtils_GetNodeType (QTVRInstance theInstance,
         UInt32 theNodeID, OSType *theNodeType)
```

```
QTVRNodeHeaderAtom
                     myNodeHeader;
                        myErr = noErr:
OSErr
// make sure we always return some meaningful value
*theNodeType = kQTVRUnknownType;
// get the node header atom data
myErr = QTVRUtils_GetNodeHeaderAtomData(theInstance,
       theNodeID. &myNodeHeader);
if (myErr = noErr)
  *theNodeType = EndianU32_BtoN(myNodeHeader.nodeType);
return (myErr);
```

There is no need to deallocate the block of data returned by QTVRUtils_GetNodeHeaderAtomData because it is allocated on the stack in a local variable.

Working with a VR World

All samples in a OTVR track use a single sample description. The data field of that sample description holds a VR world atom container, which holds general information about the scene contained in the QuickTime VR movie, including the name of the entire scene, the default node ID, and the default imaging properties. We can use the QTVRGetVRWorld function to retrieve a copy of a movie's VR world atom container. Listing 9 illustrates how to use this function.

```
Listing 9: Finding the VR world atom data
```

```
QTVRUtils_GetVRWorldHeaderAtomData
OSErr QTVRUtils_GetVRWorldHeaderAtomData
         (OTVRInstance theInstance.
          QTVRWorldHeaderAtomPtr theVRWorldHdrAtomPtr)
                       myVRWorld;
  QTAtomContainer
  QTAtom
                       myAtom;
  OSErr
                       myErr = noErr;
  // get the VR world
  myErr = QTVRGetVRWorld(theInstance, &myVRWorld);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    return(myErr):
  // get the single VR world header atom in the VR world
  myAtom = QTFindChildByIndex(myVRWorld,
       kParentAtomIsContainer, kQTVRWorldHeaderAtomType, 1.
         NULL):
  if (myAtom != 0)
    myErr = QTCopyAtomDataToPtr(myVRWorld, myAtom, false,
         sizeof(QTVRWorldHeaderAtom), theVRWorldHdrAtomPtr,
         NULL):
    myErr = cannotFindAtomErr:
  QTDisposeAtomContainer(myVRWorld):
  return(myErr);
```

A VR world atom container contains (perhaps among other things) a single VR world header atom, whose structure is defined by the QTVRWorldHeaderAtom data type:

```
struct QTVRWorldHeaderAtom (
                       majorVersion:
  UInt16
  UInt16
                       minorVersion:
  QTAtomID
                       nameAtomID;
                       defaultNodeID:
  UInt32
  UInt32
                       vrWorldFlags;
  UInt32
                       reserved1;
  UInt32
                       reserved2:
```

We can use this information to determine the node ID of a scene's default node, as shown in Listing 10.

```
Listing 10: Finding a scene's default node
```

QTVRUtils_GetDefaultNodeID

UInt32 QTVRUtils_GetDefaultNodeID (QTVRInstance theInstance)

QTVRUtils_GetDefaultNodeID can be useful if we need to know the ID of a movie's default node, since there is no QuickTime VR Manager function that returns this information directly.

WIRED ACTIONS AND QUICKTIME VR

In a handful of recent articles, we've seen how to work with QuickTime wired actions in conjunction with sprite tracks, text tracks, and Flash tracks. We use wired actions to attach dynamic, interactive behaviors to elements in a QuickTime movie and to allow different elements in those movies (and indeed in different movies) to communicate with one another. In this section, we'll investigate how to work with wired actions and QuickTime VR movies.

Sending Actions to QuickTime VR Movies

Let's begin by taking a look at the wired actions that can be targeted at a QuickTime VR movie. When action wiring was first introduced, in QuickTime 3, these five wired actions were supported:

The first three actions allow us to set a new pan angle, tilt angle, or field of view in a QuickTime VR movie. Each of these actions takes a single parameter, a value of type float that specifies the desired new angle. This value should be specified in degrees (not radians) and is by default an absolute angle to pan, tilt, or zoom to. It's often useful to specify a relative value instead; we can indicate that the parameter value is relative by inserting into the action atom an atom of type kActionFlags whose atom data is a long integer with (at least) the kActionFlagActionIsDelta flag set. **Listing 11** shows how we can build an atom container holding a wired atom that pans the target QuickTime VR movie one degree to the left each time it gets an idle event. (We'll see later how to make sure the movie is sent idle events.)

Listing 11: Panning a QuickTime VR movie during idle events AddVRAct CreateIdleActionContainer

```
static OSErr AddVRAct CreateIdleActionContainer
         (QTAtomContainer *theActions)
  QTAtom
             myEventAtom = 0;
  QTAtom
             myActionAtom = 0;
  long
             mvAction:
  float
             myPanAngle = 1.0;
  UInt32
             myFlags;
             myErr = noErr;
  OSErr
  myErr = QTNewAtomContainer(theActions);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    goto bail:
  myErr = QTInsertChild(*theActions, kParentAtomIsContainer,
```

```
kQTEventIdle, 1, 1, 0, NULL, &myEventAtom);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    goto bail:
  myErr = QTInsertChild(*theActions, myEventAtom, kAction,
        1, 1, 0, NULL, &myActionAtom);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    goto bail:
  myAction = EndianS32_NtoB(kActionQTVRSetPanAngle);
  myErr = QTInsertChild(*theActions, myActionAtom,
        kWhichAction, 1, 1, sizeof(long), &myAction, NULL);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    goto bail:
  AddVRAct_ConvertFloatToBigEndian(&myPanAngle);
  myErr = QTInsertChild(*theActions, myActionAtom,
         kActionParameter, 1, 1, sizeof(float), &myPanAngle,
         NULL);
  if (myErr != noErr)
    goto bail;
  myFlags = EndianU32_NtoB(kActionFlagActionIsDelta |
        kActionFlagParameterWrapsAround);
  myErr = QTInsertChild(*theActions, myActionAtom,
         kActionFlags, 1, 1, sizeof(UInt32), &myFlags, NULL);
bail:
  return(myErr);
```

The action kActionQTVRShowDefaultView sets the current node to its default view (that is, the view that is displayed when the node is first entered). The kActionQTVRGoToNodeID action takes a single parameter that specifies a node ID; when the action is executed, the node with that ID becomes the current node. QuickTime 3 also introduced four wired action operands, which we can use to get information about the current state of a QuickTime VR movie:

```
enum (
kOperandQTVRPanAngle = 4096,
kOperandQTVRTiltAngle = 4097,
kOperandQTVRFieldOfView = 4098,
kOperandQTVRNodeID = 4099
```

QuickTime 5 added three more actions that we can send to a QuickTime VR movie:

```
enum {
    kActionQTVREnableHotSpot = 4101,
    kActionQTVRShowHotSpots = 4102,
    kActionQTVRTranslateObject = 4103
};
```

The kActionQTVREnableHotSpot action enables or disables a hot spot. This action requires two parameters, a long integer that specifies a hot spot ID and a Boolean value that specifies whether to enable (true) or disable (false) the hot spot. The kActionQTVRShowHotSpots action shows or hides all hot spots in a node, depending on the Boolean value in the parameter atom. The kActionQTVRTranslateObject action sets the view center of an object node to the values specified in the action's two parameters. To allow us to retrieve the current hot spot visibility state and the current view center, QuickTime 5 introduced three additional operands:

```
enum {
    kOperandQTVRHotSpotsVisible = 4100,
    kOperandQTVRViewCenterH = 4101,
    kOperandQTVRViewCenterV = 4102
};
```

There is currently no operand that will allow us to determine whether a particular hot spot is enabled.

Adding Actions to QuickTime VR Movies

We can add two kinds of wired actions to QuickTime VR movies: (1) actions that are associated with a particular node and (2) actions that are associated with a particular hot spot in a node. Examples of nodespecific actions are setting the pan and tilt angles when the user first enters the node and performing some actions periodically when the movie gets an idle event. An example of a hot-spot-specific action might be playing a sound when the cursor is moved over a hot spot.

All QuickTime VR wired actions are attached to a particular node, so the atom containers holding the actions are placed in the node information atom container that is contained in the media sample for that node in the QTVR track. So, our job here boils down to finding a media sample in the QTVR track, constructing some atom containers for our desired actions, placing those action containers into the appropriate places in the media sample, and then writing the modified media sample back into the QTVR track. We'll also need to put an atom into the media property atom container of the QTVR track to enable wired action and idle event processing.

Adding Actions to a Hot Spot

Let's begin by seeing how to attach some wired actions to a particular hot spot in a node. Let's suppose that we know both the node ID and the hot spot ID, and that we have already constructed the atom container that holds the wired actions. Recall that a QTVR track contains one media sample for each node in the movie and that that media sample is a node information atom container. For simplicity, we'll assume that we want to wire a hot spot in a single-node QuickTime VR movie. As a result, we can get the media sample by calling GetMediaSample, like this:

```
GetMediaSample(myMedia, mySample, 0, NULL, myMediaTime, NULL,
       &mySampleDuration, (SampleDescriptionHandle)myQTVRDesc.
      NULL, 1, NULL, &mySampleFlags);
```

If GetMediaSample returns successfully, then mySample will be the atom container that holds the atoms we want to modify.

this point, we'll call an application function AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot to add our wired actions to the specified hot spot:

```
AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot(mySample, myHotSpotID,
         myActions);
```

The first thing we need to do in AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot is find the hot spot parent atom inside the node information atom container:

```
myHotSpotParentAtom = QTFindChildByIndex(theSample,
         kParentAtomIsContainer, kQTVRHotSpotParentAtomType.
         1. NULL):
```

A hot spot parent atom contains a bot spot atom (of type kQTVRHotSpotAtomType) for each hot spot in the node. The ID of the hot spot atom is the same as the ID of the hot spot, so we can find the appropriate hot spot atom like this:

```
myHotSpotAtom = QTFindChildByID(theSample.
         myHotSpotParentAtom, kQTVRHotSpotAtomType.
         theHotSpotID, NULL);
```

We add wired actions to a hot spot by inserting an event atom

(that is, an atom of type kQTEventType) into the hot spot atom:

```
QTInsertChildren(theSample, myHotSpotAtom, theActions);
```

Listing 12 shows our complete definition of AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot.

Listing 12: Adding wired actions to a hot spot

```
AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot
static OSErr AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot
          (Handle theSample, long theHotSpotID,
           QTAtomContainer theActions)
  QTAtom
              myHotSpotParentAtom = 0;
  QTAtom
              myHotSpotAtom = 0;
  short
              myCount, myIndex:
  OSErr myErr = paramErr;
myHotSpotParentAtom = QTFindChildByIndex(theSample,
         kParentAtomIsContainer, kQTVRHotSpotParentAtomType,
         1, NULL);
  if (myHotSpotParentAtom = NULL)
    goto bail:
  myHotSpotAtom = QTFindChildByID(theSample.
         myHotSpotParentAtom, kQTVRHotSpotAtomType,
         theHotSpotID, NULL);
  if (myHotSpotAtom == NULL)
    goto bail:
  // see how many events are already associated with the specified hot spot
  myCount = QTCountChildrenOfType(theSample, myHotSpotAtom,
         kQTEventType);
  for (myIndex = myCount; myIndex > 0; myIndex--) {
    QTAtom
                myTargetAtom = 0:
    // remove all the existing events
    myTargetAtom = QTFindChildByIndex(theSample.
    myHotSpotAtom, kQTEventType, myIndex, NULL); if (myTargetAtom != 0) {
       myErr = QTRemoveAtom(theSample, myTargetAtom);
       if (myErr != noErr)
         goto bail:
  if (theActions) {
    myErr = QTInsertChildren(theSample, myHotSpotAtom,
         theActions);
     if (myErr != noErr)
       goto bail;
bail:
  return(myErr);
```

You'll notice that we look to see whether the hot spot atom already contains any event atoms; if so, we remove them from the hot spot atom. This ensures that the event atom we pass to AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot is the only one in the hot spot atom.

Adding Actions to a Node

We add wired actions to a node by inserting children into the node information atom container for that node. The type of a child atom for a wired action should be the same as the event type, and the ID should be 1. Listing 13 defines the AddVRAct SetWiredActionsToNode function, which we use to add a wired atom to a particular node. The first parameter is assumed to be the node information atom container.

```
Listing 13: Adding wired actions to a node
```

```
AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToNode
static OSErr AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToNode
          (Handle the Sample, QTA tom Container the Actions,
          UInt32 theActionType)
  QTAtom
               myEventAtom = 0:
  QTAtom
               myTargetAtom = 0;
  OSErr
               myErr = noErr;
  // look for an event atom in the specified actions atom container
```

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```
if (theActions != NULL)
  myEventAtom = QTFindChildByID(theActions.
        kParentAtomIsContainer, theActionType, 1, NULL);
// look for an event atom in the node information atom container
myTargetAtom = QTFindChildByID(theSample,
       kParentAtomIsContainer, theActionType, 1, NULL);
if (myTargetAtom != 0) (
  // if there is already an event atom in the node information atom container,
  // then either replace it with the one we were passed or remove it
  if (theActions != NULL)
  myErr = QTReplaceAtom(theSample, myTargetAtom.
        theActions, myEventAtom);
     myErr = QTRemoveAtom(theSample, myTargetAtom);
| else |
  // there is no event atom in the node information atom container,
  // so add in the one we were passed
   if (theActions != NULL)
     myErr = QTInsertChildren(theSample,
        kParentAtomIsContainer, theActions);
return(myErr):
```

We can add an idle event handler to a node like this:

AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToNode(mySample, myActions, kQTEventIdle):

And we can add a frame-loaded event handler to a node like this:

Other event types (such as kQTEventMouseClick or kQTEventKey) might not make sense for a node-based wired action.

Updating the Media Property Atom

When we added some wiring to a sprite track, we needed to include in the track's media property atom an atom of type kSpriteTrackPropertyHasActions whose atom data is set to true. (See "Wired", in *MacTech*, May 2001.) This atom tells the movie controller that the sprite track has wiring associated with it. If, in addition, any of the wired sprites employs the kQTEventIdle event, we also need to add an atom of type kSpriteTrackPropertyQTIdleEventsFrequency whose atom data indicates the desired idle event frequency, in ticks. We need to add these same atoms to the media property atom when we wire a QuickTime VR movie. **Listing 14** defines the function AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom, which we use to add the appropriate atoms.

Listing 14: Adding atoms to the media property atom

```
AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom static OSErr AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom (Media theMedia,
           long thePropertyID, long thePropertySize,
void *theProperty)
                         myPropertyAtom = NULL;
  QTAtomContainer
  QTAtom
                         myAtom = 0;
myErr = noErr;
  // get the current media property atom
  myErr = GetMediaPropertyAtom(theMedia, &myPropertyAtom);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
  // if there isn't one yet, then create one
  if (myPropertyAtom == NULL) (
  myErr = QTNewAtomContainer(&myPropertyAtom);
     if (myErr != noErr)
        goto bail;
  // see if there is an existing atom of the specified type; if not, then create one
  myAtom = QTFindChildByID(myPropertyAtom,
          kParentAtomIsContainer, thePropertyID, 1, NULL);
  if (myAtom == NULL)
     myErr = QTInsertChild(myPropertyAtom,
```

To indicate that the QuickTime VR movie has wired actions embedded in it, we can call AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom like this:

And we can set the idle frequency like this:

Saving the Modified Media Data

So far, we've added some wired atoms to a node information atom container or to a hot spot atom inside of a node information atom container, and we've updated the media property atom of the QTVR track. To save these changes, we need to replace the appropriate sample in the QTVR track media and then update the movie atom. **Listing 15** shows the complete definition of the AddVRAct_AddWiredActionsToQTVRMovie function, which we use to wire a QuickTime VR movie.

Listing 15: Adding wired actions to a QuickTime VR movie

```
AddVRAct_AddWiredActionsToQTVRMovie
static void AddVRAct_AddWiredActionsToQTVRMovie
           (FSSpec *theFSSpec)
   short
                          myResID = 0;
   short
                          myResRefNum = -1:
                          myMovie = NULL;
   Movie
   Track
                          myTrack = NULL:
                          myMedia = NULL:
   Media
   TimeValue
                          myTrackOffset:
   TimeValue
                          myMediaTime:
   TimeValue
                          mySampleDuration;
   TimeValue
                          mvSelectionDuration:
                          myNewMediaTime;
   TimeValue
   QTVRSampleDescriptionHandle
                          myQTVRDesc = NULL;
   Handle
                          mySample = NULL;
                          mySampleFlags:
   short
                          myTrackEditRate:
   Fixed
                          myActions = NULL;
   QTAtomContainer
   Boolean
                          myHasActions;
   long
                          myHotSpotID = OL:
                          myFrequency;
myErr = noErr;
  UInt32
  OSErr
  // open the movie file and get the QTVR track from the movie
  // open the movie file for reading and writing
myErr = OpenMovieFile(theFSSpec, &myResRefNum, fsRdWrPerm);
if (myErr != noErr) goto bail; myErr =
NewMovieFromFile(&myMovie, myResRefNum, &myResID,
  NULL, newMovieActive, NULL); if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail;
```

```
// find the first QTVR track in the movie;
myTrack = GetMovieIndTrackType(myMovie, 1, kQTVRQTVRType,
       movieTrackMediaType);
if (myTrack = NULL)
  goto bail:
// get the first media sample in the QTVR track
myMedia = GetTrackMedia(myTrack);
if (myMedia = NULL)
   goto bail:
myTrackOffset = GetTrackOffset(myTrack);
myMediaTime = TrackTimeToMediaTime(myTrackOffset, myTrack);
// allocate some storage to hold the sample description for the QTVR track
myQTVRDesc = (QTVRSampleDescriptionHandle)NewHandle(4);
if (myQTVRDesc = NULL)
  goto bail;
mySample = NewHandle(0):
if (mySample = NULL)
   goto bail:
myErr = GetMediaSample(myMedia, mySample, 0, NULL,
       myMediaTime, NULL, &mySampleDuration, (SampleDescriptionHandle)myQTVRDesc, NULL, 1, NULL,
        &mySampleFlags):
if (myErr != noErr)
   goto bail;
// add idle actions
// create an action container for idle actions
myErr = AddVRAct_CreateIdleActionContainer(&myActions);
if (myErr != noErr)
  goto bail:
// add idle actions to sample
myErr = AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToNode(mySample, myActions,
       kQTEventIdle);
if (myErr != noErr)
goto bail:
myErr = QTDisposeAtomContainer(myActions);
if (myErr != noErr)
   goto bail:
// add frame-loaded actions
// create an action container for frame-loaded actions
myErr = AddVRAct_CreateFrameLoadedActionContainer
       (&myActions):
if (myErr != noErr)
  goto bail:
// add frame-loaded actions to sample
myErr = AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToNode(mySample, myActions,
       kQTEventFrameLoaded);
if (myErr != noErr)
  goto bail;
myErr = QTDisposeAtomContainer(myActions);
if (myErr != noErr)
   goto bail:
// add hot-spot actions
// find the first hot spot in the selected node; don't bail if there are no hot spots
myErr = AddVRAct_GetFirstHotSpot(mySample, &myHotSpotID);
if ((myErr = noErr) && (myHotSpotID != 0)) (
  // create an action container for hot-spot actions
  myErr = AddVRAct_CreateHotSpotActionContainer
        (&myActions);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
  // add hot-spot actions to sample
  myErr = AddVRAct_SetWiredActionsToHotSpot(mySample,
       myHotSpotID. myActions):
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
// replace sample in media
myTrackEditRate = GetTrackEditRate(myTrack, myTrackOffset);
if (GetMoviesError() != noErr)
   goto bail:
GetTrackNextInterestingTime(myTrack, nextTimeMediaSample |
        nextTimeEdgeOK, myTrackOffset, fixed1, NULL,
        &mySelectionDuration);
if (GetMoviesError() != noErr)
   goto bail;
myErr = DeleteTrackSegment(myTrack, myTrackOffset.
       mySelectionDuration);
if (myErr != noErr)
  goto bail;
myErr = BeginMediaEdits(myMedia);
if (myErr != noErr)
  goto bail;
myErr = AddMediaSample( myMedia,
               mySample.
               GetHandleSize(mySample).
```

```
mvSampleDuration.
                 (SampleDescriptionHandle)myQTVRDesc,
                 mySampleFlags.
                 &myNewMediaTime);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail;
  myErr = EndMediaEdits(myMedia);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
  // add the media to the track
  myErr = InsertMediaIntoTrack(myTrack, myTrackOffset,
         myNewMediaTime, mySelectionDuration,
         myTrackEditRate):
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail;
  // set the media property atom to enable wired action and idle-time processing
  myHasActions = true;
  myErr = AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom(myMedia,
         kSpriteTrackPropertyHasActions, sizeof(Boolean).
          &myHasActions):
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
  myFrequency = EndianU32_NtoB(1);
  myErr = AddVRAct_WriteMediaPropertyAtom(myMedia,
         kSpriteTrackPropertyQTIdleEventsFrequency,
         sizeof(UInt32), &myFrequency);
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail;
  // update the movie resource
  myErr = UpdateMovieResource(myMovie, myResRefNum, myResID,
         NULL):
  if (myErr != noErr)
     goto bail:
  // close the movie file
  myErr = CloseMovieFile(myResRefNum);
bail:
  if (myActions != NULL)
     QTDisposeAtomContainer(myActions);
  if (mySample != NULL)
    DisposeHandle(mySample);
  if (myQTVRDesc != NULL)
    DisposeHandle((Handle)myQTVRDesc);
  if (myMovie != NULL)
     DisposeMovie(myMovie):
```

CONCLUSION

In this article, we've learned how to work with the QuickTime VR Manager to control the operation of QuickTime VR movies programmatically. We've seen how to adjust pan, tilt, and zoom angles, how to alter the displayed image by drawing into a panorama's prescreen buffer, and how to intercept some QuickTime VR Manager functions. As usual, these few examples of using the VR APIs are just the tip of the iceberg; with just a little bit more time and energy, we can develop some even more impressive interactive applications using QuickTime VR.

We've also taken a look at QuickTime VR and wired actions, first reviewing how to send actions to VR movies and then (more importantly) learning how to embed wired actions into QuickTime VR movies. We haven't yet learned how to actually create QuickTime VR movies from scratch, but we do have a preliminary idea of how they are put together (at least in part). Perhaps in a future article we'll learn how to build QuickTime VR movies.

CREDITS AND REFERENCES

Thanks to Bryce Wolfson for reviewing an earlier version of this article and for providing some helpful comments. The code for adding wired actions to QuickTime VR movies is based on some code by Bill Wright. For complete information on the QuickTime VR Manager, see the book *Virtual Reality Programming With QuickTime VR 2.1* by Apple Computer, Inc.

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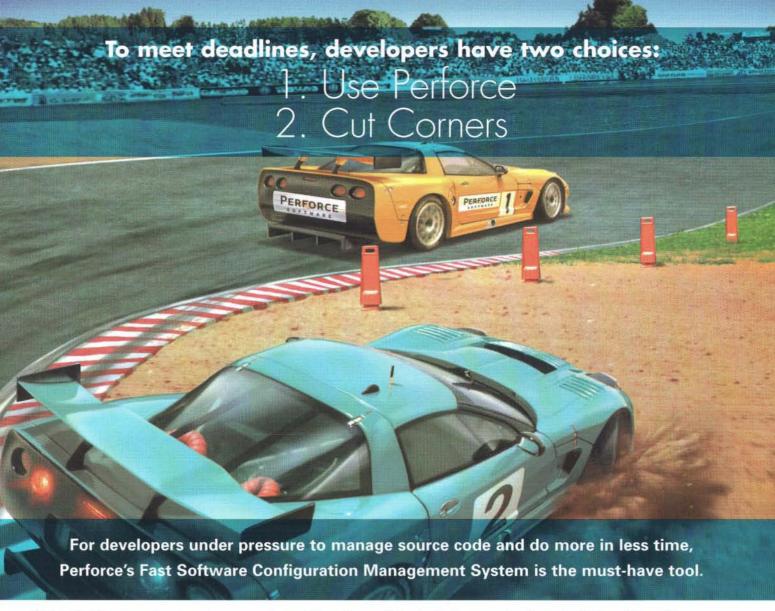
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With rival SCM systems, the only way to quicken the pace is to cut corners - but in the long run you pay the price with missed deadlines, uncertain contents, buggy releases and no way back to previous builds.

With Perforce, the fast way is always the right way. Install it fast, learn it fast, execute operations fast. With other SCM systems, developers face an unpleasant choice: do it the right way or do it the fast way. Perforce's speed and reliability mean fast is right. See how Perforce compares with other leading SCM systems at http://www.perforce.com/perforce/reviews.html

Run at full speed even with hundreds of users and millions of files. At the core of Perforce lies a relational database with well-keyed tables, so simple operations can be accomplished in near-zero time. Larger operations (like labeling a release and branching) are translated into keyed data access, giving Perforce the scalability that big projects require.

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Truly cross platform. Perforce runs on more than 50 operating systems, including Windows and nearly every UNIX variation, from Linux and Mac OS X to AS400 and more.

Integrate with leading IDEs and defect trackers:
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